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# WEEKLY PEOPLE

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## REMINDERS

### THAT PRESENT SYSTEM IS FULL OF FLAWS.

**Private Ownership Turns Blessing of Plentiful Gold Into Curse—Savings Banks "for Workers" Who Have no Savings—Clerical Education Sends Votaries Amiss.**

Fiendish is the news from Congo to the effect that valuable, rich and easily workable gold deposits have been found in the Kantaga district. Under a rational social system there should be joy at the discovery of a new quarry of a metal so useful in the arts. Not to-day. To-day the Kantaga discovery will work like a pestilence in all directions. The already increasing supply of gold is cheapening money the world around, thereby sending up the cost of living and making the life of the worker more and more of a burden. The news from Kantaga will tend to depreciate gold still more, and thereby still more sorely weigh upon the wage earner. Nor will that be all. Poor Kantaga natives. Already sufficiently distressing are the tidings of the way these "heathens" are being worked in the gathering of gum. When their exploiters, their converters to Christianity see gold before them—Lord, have mercy on the Kantagans!

The Movement in Spain against the clerical monarchy, or monarcho-clericalism, is revealing the conscious ascendancy that denotes solidification. "El Socialista" of Madrid of last January 21 contains these two paragraphs on the subject:

"The republican-socialist alliance was concluded for the purpose of overthrowing Maury, of preventing his return to power, and of substituting the Monarchy with the Republic.

"The first number of the program has been put through. In order to effect the second the third will have to be carried out."

President Taft is getting no more than is coming to him when from all parts of the country, the Middle West in particular, all sorts of names are being hurled at him. Such is ever the fate of the fetic. It is either worshipped or kicked—blindly in both instances. Taft having set himself up as the Providence of the people, and having failed, as, poor fellow, he could not help but fail, he is now receiving the kicks that are due to a defaulting fetic.

Nearly thirty-six pages of the wide Congressional Record pages are taken up by the speech delivered on the 31st of last January, by Senator Carter of Montana on his postal savings and by the questions and other interruptions from his dissenting colleagues. It is curious to notice that not one of the objectors to the bill raised the point that, before slobbering all over "the American workingman" with real to provide for him a safe place where to drop his savings, it might be well to furnish the workers with wages to save from.

The Cleveland, O., "Waechter und Anzeiger" reports a Rev. Dr. A. Breig's address which opens with the statement: "We agree with Daniel De Leon of the Socialist Labor Party that the Trades Union Question is undoubtedly the most important question in America, and that the same must be grappled with and solved"; and which closes with the statement: "Politically the Trades Unions must be non-partisan"—exactly the opposite of anything that Daniel De Leon has ever said. The politically non-partisan Union is a headless chicken, good to be eaten, but of no use to itself. What is there in the clerical education that causes its products fatedly to go wrong? Either they reason with admirable logic but from untenable premises; or they start from sound premises and then become Catharine Wheels—like the Rev. Dr. Breig?

For a pious man, Representative Thomas U. Sisson of Mississippi made a bad break on the 27th of last month in his impassioned assault upon the Presidential executive order which forbids subordinates of the Departments to convey information to Congress. Representative Sisson urged that, in humble imitation of the august scene which took

place when, darkness prevailing on the face of the deep, the Lord said, "Let there be light," the President, now that there is so much darkness and doubt, also say politically, "Let there be light." That's just the posture struck by the President. The President's posture is that HE is the source of all light, and not any angel, or all of them combined, that surround his throne. Representative Sisson's Sunday school teacher surely did not instill into him the pantheistic notion that light could emanate from any John, Dick or Harry angel, and that such a notion had biblical sanction.

Act I.—A prohibition law is passed in the State of Georgia.

Act II.—The law is violated in Dade county.

Act III.—State proceedings are instituted before State Judge Fite, and Gauger Thompson, a Federal revenue official, is summoned to testify.

Act IV.—Gauger Thompson brings up his summons before the Federal Court for a ruling.

Act V.—United States Judge Newman rules that revenue officials could not be forced to testify in State courts about violations of the prohibition law.

Act VI.—State Judge Fite sets himself above the United States Court; stigmatizes Judge Newman's decision as "folly, usurpation and tyranny"; orders the Dade county distillery raided, and Gauger Thompson arrested.

Act VII. is either yet to be enacted, and will exhibit State Judge Fite in prison for "contempt of court"; or the act is being enacted now, and exhibits a "contemner of court" free and unpunished. In either case Act VII. exhibits "law and order" as practiced by its own high priests.

It is somewhat disappointing to see that now, when even the "New Yorker Volkszeitung" has as last learned some economies from the Daily People, and dropping its former easy twaddle about high price being the result of the "greed of the capitalists," takes the Daily People's stand that the high prices are the legitimate economic result of the depreciation of gold,—it is, under such circumstances somewhat disappointing to see Mr. Berger's Milwaukee "Wahrheit" still sticking to the easy twaddle concerning the workers' being the taxpayers. We always gave Mr. Berger credit for intelligence superior to that of the Joneses, Leibs, Schlusters and other "Volkszeitung" Timbuctoosers. If they can learn, it is disappointing to see Berger lagging behind.

A "Georgia Teacher," who, for all the world writes in the wild-eyed style of Tom Watson, and who, for all we know, is Mr. Watson himself, has a long screech in the Atlanta, Ga., "Jeffersonian" of last January 27 against the rousing welcome recently tendered by Atlanta to Booker T. Washington. The "Georgia Teacher" deports himself in the approved style of the Georgia Watsonic employer of colored labor. He throws fits at what he calls the "insidious attempt to corrupt the Saxon race," while his fits are really thrown at the steadily approaching danger of his colored wage slaves' gaining in dignity, and demanding higher wages, and thereby lowering the surplus values that Watson's "Saxonom" now sponges out of their marrow.

Superlativeness is the present disease of the country. The suffragette Mrs. Sofia Loebinger declares that "the thing most needed by the city is women food inspectors." Secretary Ballinger is of the conviction that "the most important thing of all before Congress and the people" is the squelching of Pinchot. "The Appeal to Reason" has no doubt that "nothing will so much unify the workers as the conviction of its Warren." Mrs. Eddy causes the announcement to be made in her name that "of all the issues that are agitating the public mind Christian Science has the deepest root." Ex-Commissioner Bingham wears himself out trying to convince people that "the most corrupt thing ever done in politics was his summary removal from office." Mr. Hopp, the S. P. playwright, thinks aloud that there "never was such a playwright" as himself. And so goes the crescendo note.

In a letter to the "Call" of the 1st of this month James F. Carey, better known as Armory Jim, reels off a number of evidences of his Massachusetts Socialist party's being, not in a bad way, but in a good way. Armory Jim forgot to mention one of the best evidences of his party's being in a good way, to wit, that at the recent municipal election in

## WATSON AND SURPLUS VALUE

Tom Watson's "Watson's Jeffersonian Magazine" for this month praiseworthy continues its praiseworthy task of "disemboweling" Bebel, "exploding" Marx, and "driving Socialists so completely into a corner that they haven't got room to grunt." The Socialist principles this month disemboweled, exploded and cornered into gruntlessness are three—Surplus Value, the Law of Wages, and the Materialist Conception of History.

Anxious not to allow Mr. Watson's genius to go to waste, the bleeding, palpitating remnants of all the three subjects will be picked up successively from the refuse heap into which Mr. Watson flung them. From that heap we take up this week the first subject—Surplus Value.

Mr. Watson grips the subject at its very heart. Says he: "Karl Marx contended that when A. sold to B. a commodity which B. afterwards sold to C. at a profit, a social wrong had been committed. The profit made by B. in the trade was 'surplus value.'" Whereupon Mr. Watson concludes that Marx's idea is absurd. Our conclusion is that, either some enterprising book-agent found Mr. Watson "dead easy" and stuck him with a copy of some wild-eyed reformer's pamphlet, which he palmed off upon the unsophisticated Georgian as a work by Marx; or, that Mr. Watson actually had an actual work by Marx in his hands, but was himself in such a towering state of rage over the increased resistance of his plantation "Niggers" to his sponging of the surplus value yielded by them, that he knew not what he read.—Fact is, Marx never said any such thing, nor anything that remotely looks like it. "Surplus Value" is not the yield of a commercial transaction. Surplus Value

Boston, the S. P., was in such a fine way that it could not even gather the necessary signatures to go on the ballot.

Those who have followed the career of the Rev. Charles Steile, the glib secretary of the Presbyterian Church and Labor Board, the orator of the day at A. F. of L. assemblies, and the constant contributor to their journals, may have wondered somewhat at the volubly sincere support by him, a churchman, of the craft union movement, a support which he himself sums up in the words: "There may be many points of difference between the church and [organized] labor as to specific aims and methods, but there are enough points of agreement, and a sufficient number of fundamental principles for which both stand, to warrant the church and labor in uniting for the purpose of carrying out a common program." The answer lies in the following five lines from the Lancaster, Pa., "Labor Leader" of January 29: "Organized labor recognizes the rights of property and the wage system. The Socialists would wipe out the whole wage system, and with it the employers, as well."

Phila. Shirtwaist Strike Settled.

Philadelphia, February 7.—Their great strike having been declared off by the to-day in the vicinity of the factories, and for the first time in eight weeks the police were not called upon to club and arrest strikers.

Under an agreement ratified by the workers yesterday, the operatives will return to work on Wednesday. The agreement provides for arbitration, partial recognition of the shirtwaist makers' union, and shorter work hours. The manufacturers also are to furnish power and needles for the machines, without cost to the workers.

End of New York Shirtwaist Struggle.

The general strike of the waist makers, which began with a walkout of from 30,000 to 40,000 persons and has been reduced to about 2,000 by the successive victories of the girls in one shop after another, is to be declared off in 10 days. All the emergency headquarters, about nine in number, outside of Clinton Hall, have been given up.

It is ruefully estimated by the bosses that this strike has cost them more than \$4,000,000 in loss of profits.

The New York Labor News Company is the literary agency of the Socialist Labor Party. It prints nothing but sound Socialist literature.

is that wealth, measured in value, that Labor yields to the finished product, and which the finished product is worth over and above the cost of production. For instance:

We are not accurately informed how many "Niggers" Mr. Watson works on his plantation. Let us assume he works 100 of them. Let us also assume that cotton is the staple product of the plantation. Mr. Watson will have to make certain expenditures. He will have to pay rent, either direct or indirect—direct if he does not own the ground, indirect in the shape of the interest forfeited by the purchase-money of the land if he does own it; he will have to pay for the seed; he will have to pay for the implements; he will have to pay for the live stock; etc., etc.; and he will have to pay his "Niggers" for their labor-power. Now, then, when the cotton of the Watson plantation is sold, assuming that the cotton market is not, at the time, suffering from any perturbing cause—such as an exceptional demand, which would send prices up, or an exceptional glut, which would force prices down;—that cotton will be sold at its EXCHANGE VALUE, that is for the amount of gold which represents the amount of labor-power socially necessary to produce, that is, to place that cotton on the market. That amount of gold consists of two parts:

One part is the value of the expenses—rent; seed; wear and tear of implements, that is, that portion of the implements consumed in production; wear and tear of stock; etc., etc.; and the wages bargained for by the "Niggers," and not always paid to them as they go along, but frequently paid to them when the employer collects on his sales.

The other part consists of an addition-

al value, a value which labor-power yields over and above its own wages, and the yielding of which is the specific quality of labor-power, without which quality it would not be hired at all.—That excess of value, which labor-power yields over and above the wages paid to the wage slave,—that is SURPLUS VALUE.

When Mr. Watson has his cotton, and before he sells the same, he has in his possession, in the shape of cotton, all that he expended—and something else, besides. That additional something is the wealth that it is the quality of labor-power to yield over and above its own wages; that additional something is SURPLUS VALUE; that additional something Mr. Watson appropriates as "profits." If Mr. Watson is in any way related to Artemus Ward's "Uncle Willum," who, Artemus tells, sold "apple-sass" in kegs containing only an upper layer of "sass" and below that shavings; if, in other words, Mr. Watson were surreptitiously to insert bricks and rocks into his bales of cotton, he would then get still larger returns. But the increased returns would not be "profits"; they would not be SURPLUS VALUE; they would be "cheating." Without "cheating" in his sales the employer pockets more than he gives out. The excess is SURPLUS VALUE.

SURPLUS VALUE is, economically, not the fruit of overreaching practiced by one dealer upon another; it is the plunder levied by the Watson class upon their wage slaves engaged in production.

SURPLUS VALUE, consequently, has also a sociologic side. It marks the line along which the class-struggle is being waged—the line along which the Watson Class and the Working Class, Mr. Watson and his "Niggers," have their hands in each others' wool.

## A "LABOR PARTY"

### CASTING ITS SHADOWS AHEAD IN WASHINGTON STATE.

The "Forces" Behind the Move, or the Wire Pullers Behind the Scene—Also the Wire-Pullers—"Direct Actionists" Become Lambkins for the Politicians' Shambles—Smash-up of the S. P. Which Had Sought Salvation in "I'm-a-Bummery."

Spokane, Wash., January 31.—The course of events indicates that the "Direct Actionism" of the late "Free Speech Fight" is to run out into a "Labor Party," which will swallow up also what is left of the Socialist party.

On January 23, at Turner Hall, a meeting was held under the auspices of the so-called I. W. W. Attorney Moore spoke for an hour. His speech was mild. "Direct Action," said he, "should not altogether be disregarded," and he quoted instances in history, most of them inapplicable to the late "Fight."

After Moore had spoken, the "cat" began to peep out of the bag. She did so in the person of A. W. Swensen, the Typographical Union delegate to the late conventions of the A. F. of L. at Toronto and at Huguam. Mr. Swensen, take note, is the ostensible promoter and manager of the Washington State Labor party, which is to be launched in Spokane next July. He spoke about 15 minutes in which he handed out the dope which the officers of the A. F. of L. usually deal in.

The next speaker to be introduced was David C. Coates, known to Daily People readers as a traveler on passes at the time when he figured as a Labor representative in the Legislature of Colorado. Coates spoke for 15 minutes, in which he told the so-called I. W. W. that he did not agree with their Direct Action, and they should not be too severe in condemning Mayor Pratt and Chief Sullivan, as these officials were only doing their duties; that the majority of the people had put them there to perform certain duties; that it was really the Laboring class who were hitting themselves with the club from behind their own backs; and that only when they would use their votes to put their own men in office and tell them what to do, would they be able to control the situation. One should think that such remarks would have caused a general uproar from the "Direct Actionists." It used to. But now they remained perfectly quiet, and the "Direct Action"

chairman closed the meeting apparently in a happy state of mind. The whole of the proceedings was pulled off according to the program.

At the meeting Sunday, January 30, the first speaker, Mr. Feurbach, of the German Society, spoke on Christ as a "Free Speech Fighter"; he also gave a sketch of German Socialism.

The second speaker, Attorney Moore, said that the best endorsement of the I. W. W. was that the A. F. of L. was beginning to "organize industrially" (!)

The last speaker was Editor Hughes of the "Labor World." He said every class struggle was a political struggle; the working class needed the political arm as well as the economic arm to fight their battles; even if there were not more than 10 or 20 votes in the I. W. W. those who had the votes should vote anyhow; the fact remained that it was the working class who cast the majority of votes in Spokane. The approval with which these remarks of Hughes's were received by the audience, including the "Direct Actionist" chairman, goes to show that the comedy is working to perfection.

"Our German Friends" are liable to wake up some fine morning and come to the conclusion that they are being used to rake the chestnuts out of the fire for the Mine Owners and the Lumber Associations, while the poor old Socialist party is beginning to realize that they have been used as a cat paw by Moore, Coates and Co. They had tried, by whooping it up for "I'm-a-bummery," to save the remains of the old S. P. wreck; now they find themselves tricked. The few members they got left are seeking to serve the wreck by holding meetings on Sunday evenings at Oliver Hall in opposition to the meetings of Moore, Swensen, Coates and Co. at Turner Hall.

That the Swensen-Coates new Labor party is coming on in this State there can be no doubt. The articles in the Spokane "Labor World," the letter of Moyer, a bosom friend of Coates, published in the "Spokesman-Review" early this month, these and many other straws indicate that everything has been carefully prepared for the performance that is to come off in July, when the Washington "Labor party" is to be launched, with the expectation of landing some Coateses into politicians' seats in the Legislature.

Robert Clausen.

### INCREASE AND DESTITUTION.

Over 100,000 Apply to City Lodging House.

The climbing high cost of living and the inadequate returns in wages is work-

ing terrible havoc among the army of working people. Startling and increasing numbers of men and women in the wage-earning ranks are swiftly being reduced to destitution and death, and the demands upon charity associations are rising beyond all proportion to the growth of population. Many are the numbers who find their end in a potter's field or self destruction, and conditions, instead of promising relief, only point to a piling up of misery. The year 1910 in this city will see more suffering and want than followed even directly in 1908 after the panic.

From figures compiled by the N. Y. Evening Mail on Feb. 5 the following results were obtained:

One-sixth of those dying in Manhattan buried in Potter's Field, an increase of more than 40 per cent. in six years; 102,400 persons seeking shelter in the City Lodging House, an increase of more than 100 per cent. in seven years; 60,700 persons seeking relief from the Charities Department, and increase of 81.5 per cent. in five years; 2,400 persons sent to the almshouse, an increase of nearly 15 per cent. in four years; 1,750 husbands placed under bonds to support their families, an increase of 186.5 per cent. in four years.

Reports of the municipal lodging house, 432 to 438 East Twenty-fifth street, tell a pitiful tale. The old lodging house on First avenue was opened in December, 1896. Since then the registration has been increasing, slowly at first; then, after a brief period of decline from 1904 to 1906, by leaps and bounds. In 1906 40,872 persons applied for shelter. The following year—the year of the panic—the number jumped to 53,741. The effect of the panic was shown by the registration in December, 1907, and January, February and March, 1908. Except the month of February, when 10,902 persons were sheltered, the registration ran more than 11,000 each month.

The year 1908 saw the figures nearly double, and when the statistics were compiled it was found that 96,934 had been cared for. Last year the numbers again grew, the total being 102,421. The present year promises to be the biggest in the history of the lodging house.

### A BLOW AIMED AT LABOR.

Hatters' Union Fined \$222,000 for Levying Boycott.

Hartford, Conn., February 5.—Another body-blow was struck at the unions of workmen yesterday when a verdict was rendered by capitalist courts which will assess \$222,000 damages against the organized hat makers. The verdict was rendered in a suit by D. E. Loewe of Danbury, against 200 hatmakers of this State. Union workmen regard this latest act as the "Taft-Vale" decision of America if allowed to stand. Measures will be taken to oppose it in a higher court.

The trial grew out of a suit instituted by D. E. Loewe and Company, against the Hatmakers' Union, because of a boycott declared upon the firm's goods. The company had refused to unionize their shops and they claim that the union's action had nearly driven them out of business. The case had been pending seven years.

The action was brought under the Sherman anti-trust law, and it is the first time this statute has been invoked against combinations of labor. The jury in the case after hearing the charge by Judge Platt, directing it to bring in a verdict for the plaintiff, fixed the amount of damages which H. E. Loewe & Co. should recover from Martin Lawler and about 200 other defendants at \$74,000. As the Sherman anti-trust act allows triple damages, Judge Platt multiplied the \$74,000 by three, making the amount for which the defendants are liable \$222,000.

### BANS FERRER SCHOOLS.

Madrid, February 5.—Premier Moret to-day, explaining the decree opening the schools which were closed after the Barcelona rioting said that the denomination "free schools" covered all those in which religion was not taught, but that the legality of the Ferrer schools which, it is claimed, violate the law against the propagation of anti-military doctrines, must be decided by the courts.

Until the workers know Socialism they are the hopeless victims of Capitalism. Spread the light!

## AUSTRALIAN STRIKE

### MINERS' SOLIDARITY CALLS FORTH HOWLS OF RAGE

From Bourgeois Sheets—Due to Revolutionary Propaganda, 12,000 Men Cease Work at Short Notice—Labor Fakirs, However, Are Encouraging Scabbery.

Burwood, N. S. W., Australia, December 15.—Like a bolt from the blue sky, the coal miners in the Newcastle and Maitland districts decided on November 6 to strike against the oppression of the mine owners, who are organized in a trust known as "The Vend," the term being an abbreviation of the word "vandal," which the members of this Mine Owners' Association use in their contracts with steamship companies. How the venal press howled! Stocks were low, and the capitalist class and their watchdogs, the press, were nonplussed. They were obsessed with the idea that strikes should not take place until there was a long talkfest, which would give the mine owners the opportunity to store coal on top, and when they had a stock to last for months the miners could strike and stay out. The Colliery Employers' Federation, which is the union controlling the northern district, decided to strike without a moment's notice, however, and the howl that went up from the press and pulpits was reminiscent of "How they Howled" in America when the Socialist Labor Party in 1908 nominated its Presidential candidate. A few days later the miners in the south of the State and in the western district also struck and there wasn't a mine working in the State. Such tactics were new in strike warfare in Australian coal mining, as on previous occasions the South and West worked when the North struck. The "public" press was astounded, but the principles of the I. W. W. have taken hold of the miners here, and "organized scabbery" is now on the downward track.

The North, South, and West are three different mining unions, but were recently amalgamated as the Coal and Shale Workers' Association. A "Strike Congress" was formed, composed of delegates of miners, coal handlers and wharf laborers. This was for the purpose of preventing transportation of coal and arrival of over-sea shipments.

The unions here all barrack for a "White Australia" and against the "Yellow Peril" of the Chinese and Japs, but according to the press, a cablegram was sent to Japan asking the Japs to load no coal for Australia. I doubt the report, as I don't think the unions here ever had so much sense of solidarity as to communicate with Japanese unions before and doubt if they know of any official that they could cable to. But cables came from Jap capitalists offering to supply N. S. W. with coal during the strike, and the press, which clamors for the "defence of Australia from the Yellow hordes of China and Japan," hailed with screeches of delight the coal produced by the "inferior race."

One shipment arrived with 5,000 tons but the Coal Handlers' Union refused to transfer it to the mail steamer which it was for. The Strike Congress then ordered the "coalies" to work that shipment, and in defiance of congress they refused to touch it, so it had to be trans-shipped by the crew of the boat from Japan, and by the stewards on the mailboat who "volunteered" to scab.

The Congress sat in Sydney and members from Newcastle came and went to give reports at mass meetings of miners on Saturday nights. The officials of the Northern Union, Bowling, Burns and Brennan, respectively president, treasurer and secretary, were arrested on alighting from the train in Newcastle depot, by local police assisted by 75 from Sydney who came in, the same train. About 100 police formed a cordon around these officials and marched them to the lock-up. The warrants were sent from Sydney by Government motor car. The only inference is that the Government sent these warrants and the body of police in the train to cause a spectacular arrest and create a riot, as the men could have been arrested in Sydney easily enough.

A mass meeting was being held when the chairman got a wire that police were coming. He closed the meeting an hour earlier, saying nothing about the police. Therefore the multitude had dispersed to their homes before the arrival of the

(Continued on page 6.)



## "RIGHT TO WORK"

WORKINGMEN HAVE THE "RIGHT," PROVIDED THE BOSS PERMITS.

Periodically, and particularly at such times as workingmen are on strike and seek to persuade scabs from taking strikers' places, employers of labor and all their handclappers rush into public notice as champions of Labor, and are heard declaiming upon the sacred right of each man to work—of course for them. They stand forth eloquently and valiantly pounding out phrases in defense of this "right to work," but they carefully go no further; they say nothing as to the obstacles lying in the worker's path in his seeking to avail himself of that "right."

In an issue of the Leather Workers' "Journal" there recently appeared an article dealing with these difficulties besetting the workingman, and that vaunted "right to labor" was shown to be a very elusive thing. The following is in part the L. W. Journal's article:

"Did you ever give this expression [the right to work] any thought, to really find out if you have a right to work? We doubt it very much. Let us see if we have, as they try to tell us, a God-given right to work, and that nobody can take this right from us. Why is it that we must go to the employer's office and ask—yes, beg—for work? And after submitting recommendations as to our ability to do the work that this employer may have to do, we are told in some cases that we are not wanted; in other cases, 'Not just now; maybe sometime in the future I can use you. Just leave your name and address and what wages you are willing to work for, and in the distant future, if we need you, we will send for you. No; it is not necessary for you to call again. If we want you we will send for you.'

"In other places it is an impossibility for you to even see the party who does the hiring. You are received by some poorly paid hireling who is placed on guard at the outer door to see that no one but the select few gets in the office. This party will ask you your business, which, by the way, the only answer you could give him would be that your business is hunting a job, and that business in that line is very slack. He will hand you an application which you will be compelled to fill out to receive any consideration whatever. In this application you must state where you were born, where your father was born, also your mother, and your mother's mother, and, in fact, all your forefathers; also where you were employed before, the reasons for leaving that place, what wages you were getting, what wages you expect to get, if you were ever convicted of any sort of a crime, whether you drink intoxicating liquors, and, if so, to what extent (as if anybody would admit that they were excessive drinkers), do you smoke cigarettes? Do you gamble? Are you a married man? How many children have you? And, in fact, give a complete history of your life, and leave it with them.

"Then it is referred to their spies or inspectors, as they call them, to hunt up your past life, find out if what you say is true and if you make any misstatement of the slightest kind your application is rejected, but not thrown away. It is placed on file for future record, and it is no use for you to ever make application there again.

"If your application is found to be absolutely correct, what is the result? You are placed on their list as being eligible to work for them, and in case they are ever in need of any one you are sent for. This time (which is not very often) you get past the guard of the door and are ushered into the office, where you are confronted by a stern-looking individual who asks you to have a seat. Here again you must go through another so-called civil service examination. Then if everything is satisfactory, this is about what you get: 'Well, we have room for another man or so, but the wages you ask are entirely too much. While we would like to employ you, as you appear to be in need, it would be impossible for us to make any money by paying you such wages; but if you are willing to work for a little less money (which is generally one-third less than you ask), we will give you a chance. Our work is steady, and you will be better off working all the time than having too much time for pleasure.'

"Then, if you really must work, you will find that you are face to face with the situation of accepting the proposition as submitted by the 'kindly disposed' employer, whose 'only desire' is to 'help you to support your family or yourself,' or facing the proposition of becoming a public charge, or actual starvation. And the result is only too often that a man is compelled to accept the most unfair proposition so as to be able to provide the most meager existence for his family.

This condition exists throughout this great land of the free, and is growing worse every year, and then to be told that everyone has a God-given right to work is enough to make almost anyone's blood boil.

"There is no right to work in this or any other country. If you do not believe this assertion, just try it. Get up some morning real early, have your wife pack your dinner bucket, if there is anything left in the house to put in it, and go to any mill, factory or workshop of any kind that you wish; go in (if you can get in), hang up your coat and go to work and see how long you will be working before somebody comes along and has you thrown out. They will not even allow you to work if you would offer to do so for nothing. Then try the next place, and so on, and you will find out that you have no right whatever to work; that the only right you have is to ask for work, and let me say that all your rights end by asking for work. You immediately find out that the employer is the one who has the right to say whether you will work or not."

## CAPITALISM

Why That Designation Is Given to the System We Live Under.

The social system under which we are living is properly called the capitalist system. It is so called because the capitalist class, by reason of its ownership of the means of production and distribution, is the overwhelmingly dominant power in society—the nation, as an organization. Let us explain further. No doubt in your town, as in every other city, there are great manufacturing concerns which are great wealth creators. It may be the making of feather trimmings for bonnets, or it may be great steel plates for ocean liners; it may be toothpicks that are produced, or it may be palace cars. Railroads and steamboats distribute this wealth. Coal mines, iron mines, forests and fields, all these in some manner enter into the production of the article, or as it is properly called—the commodity. These factories, mines, railroads, steamboats, etc., the means for the production of wealth, are called CAPITAL.

Looking a little further we find that the capital of the nation is owned by a very few, a mere handful of the population, and when you consider that this small fraction of the people own absolutely, as their own private property, ALL the means whereby the rest of us must obtain food, clothing and shelter, you can realize the power they have over us. Because it owns the capital of the nation, this handful of the people is called the CAPITALIST CLASS.

Now, all this capital would be absolutely useless to the capitalist class, if it depended on that class to create wealth. But the fact that the rest of us must eat and be clothed and sheltered—or die, compels us to go to the capitalist, and create for him great volumes of wealth, and out of the wealth we have created he gives us a pittance in return, called WAGES. The rest of the wealth he keeps, and it is called PROFITS, but the proper term should be Wealth Stolen From Labor. Those of us, the great bulk of the nation, who own nothing but our ability to work, or, as the Socialist calls it, labor power, are called the WORKING CLASS.

There is another class, the MIDDLE CLASS. It, however, is rapidly being exterminated. It is represented by the small shopkeeper, and cockroach business man, who sell to the workers at an advance of from fifty to one hundred per cent. the products of their own labor. Capitalism in the shape of department stores is driving the little retailer to the wall, and the little factory stands no chance in competition with the gigantic enterprise. As the middle class are driven out of business they fall into the ranks of the wage workers.

The capitalist class attempts to justify its existence, by claiming that it returns to society full value for all that it receives. It claims to possess all the brains of the country, calls its members "Captains of Industry," and tells the working class that without the "direction" of the capitalist the working class wouldn't be able to provide for its own wants.

He will indeed have been a poor observer who does not know that the capitalist class is an idle class, a sponging and parasitic class, a class that on the social body is as useful as vermin on a human body. In the summer's fierce heat, while the worker is stifling in the factory and his family in the tenement, the capitalist and his brood are cruising on elegant yachts or jaunting in Europe. Or they go to the seashore or mountains, where their every whim and want is anticipated by eager lackeys. In the winter they go South or pass the time in riotous Seely dinners and the like. All this the capitalist does on the wealth stolen from labor.

"Captains of Industry," indeed! And yet pulpit pounders, college professors and editors tell us that the capitalist is entitled to his stealings, or profits. "Wages of Superintendence." "Reward of Risk," are some of the pet phrases these gentry use in fostering the superstition. What risk is there in investing in coal mines, street railroads, steel trusts, etc., etc? Capitalists do not invest in South Sea bubbles. The per cent. must be very largely in sight before the capitalist invests.

As for profits being the "Wages of Superintendence," as we have just shown the capitalist is an idle class. Take any big capitalist that you have heard of, J. P. Morgan, for instance. He was in Europe the greater part of the summer, did anything here in which he has an interest close down, because "Superintendence" Morgan was away? Did the Steel Trust furnaces smolder when Charles Schwab was doing a little "superintending" at the Monte Carlo gaming tables? While Carnegie is "superintending" a tally-ho coach in the Scottish Highlands, do his works shut down? "Superintendence," indeed! Half the capitalists never see the properties in which they are stockholders. It passes as a joke, that Chauncey M. Depew can't even name half the concerns he "superintends."

But maybe these apologists for the capitalist system call Wall street "operations," where one thief is trying to get the better of another thief, perhaps that is what they mean by "superintendence." But, then, how about the Gould, Vanderbilt and other women of the capitalist class who are married to European princes and nobles? They live in Europe and, so far as can be learned, their chief occupation is getting their titled husbands out of gambling and other scrapes. But they, too, draw "wages of superintendence."

### AGE OF REASON.

By Thomas Paine.

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## ALL DUE TO LABOR

Expert Testimony on Who Builds, Improves and Gives Value to Machinery and Inventions.

Seattle, Wash., January 28.—The appended extract I came upon with much surprise in a book intended only for capitalist managers of machine works. It so emphasized the Marxian position that modern machinery is the social product of socialized effort, and further, that all results depend upon the actual workers, that I must desire others than myself to see this, to me, juicy morsel. Some capitalists there are, who can see as well as we. Economic determinism, however, makes them our most active and efficient, because open-eyed, enemies.

The following is the extract from "Machine Building for Profit," published by the Jones & Lamson Machine Company for distribution to machine makers and prospective customers:

"A machine is a combination of the original idea, with many subsequent ideas, which have been added to it by continuous application. These subsequent ideas are supplied by MEN WHO DO THINGS, who MAKE AND USE THE MACHINE. These ideas do not show in the general design, but THEY ARE THERE IN FACT. They represent ideas as to proper fit of this or that part, of the advantage of easing this or that bearing at this or that place. They represent the accumulation of the ideas regarding proper tension for each adjustment; and thousands of other points that may, or may not, have been anticipated by the inventor; and probably could not have been known by any other process than that worked out by actual thought combined with experience in the construction and the use of the invention.

"After receiving this treatment, one would go forth with a knowledge that the inventor, the officers, and maybe the foreman, taken altogether, do not and CANNOT make a successful machine, or business, without this supplemental work, or ideas, that come from actual work of all THE WORKERS.

"A wonderful invention is only of material value, when in the hands of the WORKERS. It may have a prospective value, and that may be something saleable; but the point to be made clear is, that real material value of an invention is not realized till it is used. To have it requires more than the inventor's vision; and more than the drawings and specifications; it must be given form and use THROUGH THE HANDS OF THE WORKERS."

Could an S. L. P. man desire to read anything clearer than that. Be not entrapped into false security when the enemy tells the truth openly among themselves. They are more to be feared than an unreasoning foe; their campaigns for disruption will have a deadly directness. Even the Good Book quotes an example: "Even the Devils know and tremble. They wax the more fierce because of it." That is a true picture of human nature, and the effect of the truth upon a man in the wrong. The enemy is to be fought and overthrown in battle, and not to be wheedled and cajoled.  
E. H. Fogarty.

### MARRIAGES ARE SLASHED.

Another Heavy Falling Off, Due to Hard Times.

Albany, February 7.—A tremendous decrease in the number of marriages for the past year, due to the hard times, is the most significant item of the State Mortality report just issued.

The total reported mortality in New York State in 1909 was 139,783, according to Dr. Eugene H. Porter, State commissioner of health. Based upon an estimated population of 8,690,643, it shows the death rate to have been 16.1 per 1,000 population as compared with 16.3 for 1908.

There were 200,865 births, which is 2,294 less than the number reported for 1908; and the birth-rate dropped from 23.8 to 23.1.

Commissioner Porter says that the decrease in births was due, no doubt, to the large decrease in marriages in 1909, as compared with 1907.

Complete returns of marriages in the State in 1909 are still lacking at the State Health Department, but reports received from county clerks indicate that there were about 80,000, as compared with 92,421 in 1907, and 73,317 in 1908. The decrease in 1908 and 1909 is attributed to the hard times which went into effect in 1908.

The New York Labor News Company is the literary agency of the Socialist Labor Party. It prints nothing but sound Socialist literature.

## A FEW QUESTIONS

Put Openly to Vincent St. John, by F. G. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.

Vincent St. John:—Since you, of late, have been seeking fame through slugging a working man, an address to the Governor, etc., jest kinder thaut mebbe a fue frendly questuns from an igrunt slaiv ud help a litil.

1. If Industrial Unionism is not based upon development of the tool, upon what is it based? I have read carefully your statement at the last I. W. W. convention in which you tell De Leon that it is not. It must be based upon something—upon WHAT? YOU FAIL TO STATE.

2. For some weeks past you have an article in a paper issued on the Pacific Coast—Spokane—Seattle—calling for funds to be sent to another slugger, Fred Heslewood, for a "free speech fight." A few of your dozen members here in St. Louis are beginning to wonder why such a Democratic movement out of the hands of "The Willy Old Rascal" that Foote refers to—why this great revolutionary movement of yours gives no report of money received and expended.

3. How does it come about that "Wilshire's—Let the Nations Own the Trusts," "Simple-Simon's State Socialism 'Socialist'" and the rest of the leeches on the American wing of the International Socialist Movement—how does it come about that they are all in your orchestra playing "free speech fight" if you are not up to your ears in POLITICS?

4. What do these words mean: "Every class struggle is a political struggle. Whosoever repudiates the political struggle, by this very act gives up all part and lot in the class struggle."—Marx.

5. If you and Trautman are not both physical and moral cowards as De Leon aptly calls you—why, I ask you, do you Trautman, Heslewood, Walsh, Jones, Foote and the rest of your ANARCHIST crew allow women and children to fight YOUR "free speech fight" on the Pacific Coast, while you one and all keep at a safe distance?

6. Tell me, Vincent, do YOU expect to send your delegate to the International at Copenhagen on an S. P. credential? If so, resurrect Sherman; it would be more original!

### OBITUARY.

If you consider yourself a good thug, let me tell you that Carrie Nation has you beat a city block. She tackles odds. As a joke you are one grand success—will certainly have a booby monument erected at your demise. As a diplomat—"Hallelujah, Your a Bum." Even the Salvation Army is making fun of you. No, Vincent, the S. L. P. is not dead; very, very much alive, thank you. But St. John, Trautman, Heslewood, Simons, Berger, Kerr, Wayland, Wilshire, et al. (for these many years leeches in the Socialist movement) are VERY MUCH DEAD. Thank you for the interview; have to go after subscriptions for the Weekly People from ex-S. P. members. Thanks, many times thanks.

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## INSURANCE AGAINST STRIKES

NEW WEAPON OF EMPLOYERS AGAINST THEIR VICTIMS AND WAGE EARNERS.

Insurance of the worker against unemployment, and such-like schemes to blur the issue of the class struggle, we have all heard much about. But now it is the employers, the exploiters themselves—who do not pity them!—who are beginning to organize to insure themselves against strikes.

This new move has just recently gotten under way in Germany. The numerous strikes which have taken place in this country have caused the employers whose encroachments caused these strikes, to use all means for "self-protection" and "self-preservation against the attacks of labor." The workmen must suffer deprivation during a strike. They lose their job, and all that thereby hangs. When the funds of the union are exhausted, the striker is "up against it."

But "severe material damage is done the employer by a strike," these twentieth century martyrs whine. The factory lies idle and suffers depreciation from want of use. Production ceases and the employer in these days of keen competition is exposed to the danger of being driven out of the market, which he has with difficulty acquired. As the stoppage of work generally takes place at times of greatest prosperity, when orders are most numerous, he is likely to lose all his custom to competitors.

To obviate these terrible calamities, this co-called "unfavorable position of industry as compared with labor," has sprung up the bosses' industrial insurance against loss by strikes. The extent to which it prevails among the German employing class may be judged from official statistics just published. According to the bureau of statistics, there are in all 48 companies, namely, 13 strike-indemnity insurance companies, 26 employers' associations for strike insurance, and 9 in which indemnity is from occasion to occasion granted.

### Operations of the Companies.

The company of United German Employers' Association, for Indemnity for loss by strikes, and comprised 20 membership companies in 1908. The number of workmen announced as employed in the industries insured was 411,028, and the sum of the yearly wages amounted to only 466,765,995 marks (\$111,090,307). During the year reported, claims to the Loss by Strikes (Der Verein deutscher Arbeitgeber-verbände zur Entschädigung bei Arbeitseinstellungen) is a reinsuramount of 525,318 men's days were presented, chiefly from the metal industry. The amount of the indemnities paid in

1908 was 153,457 marks (\$36,523). The indemnity fund amounted to 233,575 marks (\$55,591), so that the association closed the year with a surplus of 80,122 marks (\$19,069).

The company of the United Association of German Metal Industries for Indemnity against Loss by Strikes reports for the year 1908 164,803 workmen. The wage sum insured for that year amounts to 205,482,645 marks (\$48,904,870). The number of unemployed days by strikes and lockouts reached 321,754, of which 52,362 were due to strikes and 269,392 to lockouts. The entire amount of indemnity paid in 1908 was 282,031 marks (\$67,123). The association closed the year with a surplus of 321,514 marks (\$76,520).

In the case of the Employers' Union "Untre-Elbe" for Indemnity for Losses by Strikes the number of workmen announced in the industries in 1908 was 451,335 and the wage sum insured was 57,484,780 marks (\$13,666,000). In that year damages were paid for 41,454 work-days amounting to 27,839 marks (\$6,623).

### Conditions for Payment of Indemnity.

The conditions under which a strike indemnity is paid is different in the several companies. Assistance is granted to the bosses in case of strikes and generally in lockouts. But this is subject to fixed conditions, the most important of which is that the stoppage of work has "not been produced by the fault of the employer himself"—a condition the boss can always easily pretend to fulfil. The obligations of the companies or associations to their members begin after a fixed interval, in most cases three months, but may vary up to one year. The regulations are also different as to whether after the lapse of this period relief shall be granted from the first day of the breaking out of the strike or only after a later juncture or period. Some of the companies make the granting of the indemnity upon further conditions, for instance, the number of the strikers. The whole institution, however, is still in its infancy. The number of its adherents, nevertheless, increases from year to year, showing its usefulness to the boss.

The fact that it strengthens the position of the employer as against that of labor is evidenced by the diminished number of strikes, with their unhappy consequences. No wonder the bosses are going in for this new weapon against their victims.

### YET ANOTHER.

Third Mine Explosion in Three Days  
Kills Sixty-eight.

Date	Place	Killed	Injured
Feb. 2—	Palau Mine, Las Esperanzas, Mex	68	50
Feb. 1—	Browder Mine, Drakesboro, Ky	34	15
Jan. 31—	Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. Primero Col.	75	..

Laredo, Tex., February 3.—One of the greatest disasters in the history of privately owned Mexican coal mining took place yesterday in the Palau mine at Las Esperanzas, Mexico.

According to the latest reports from the scene of the disaster, sixty-eight workmen's lives are known to have been lost. After the official report showing only "fifty-three dead," twelve additional bodies were recovered, bringing the total up to sixty-five, while three others have died in the hospital, making the total of victims thus far sixty-eight.

This is the third great mine disaster in as many days. On January 31 occurred the Primero, Col., disaster, and on February 1 the explosion in the Browder mine at Drakesboro, Ky.

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## THEY ARE ANSWERING THE CALL

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Comrade Arnold has hit the bullseye. The Thousand Club's the thing. Enroll me as a member. Two subs enclosed as an initiation fee.

Enthusiastically for a greater circulation,  
Alex Ralph,  
San Francisco, Cal., January 21.

Seeing that there is a call for volunteers for the Daily People Anniversary Club who are to get 10 subs by 1st of July, you may put me down for one. I shall try to do that much and more if possible.

Fraternally,  
Math J. Cikanek,  
St. Paul, Minn., January 17.

Enroll my name in the 1,000 Daily People 10th Anniversary Club.  
W. Christiansen,  
Cleveland, O.

Enroll me as a member of the One Thousand to secure ten subs for The People before July 1, 1910.  
H. A. Brandborg,  
Denver, Colo.

R. McLure, Philadelphia, Pa., sends two subs as a starter.

Pearl E. Barron, of Scranton, is another Pennsylvania who joins the Propaganda Brigade.

D. L. Munro, of Portsmouth, Va., joins the 1,000 Club, and sends \$3.50 for Weekly People subs.

We want you to enroll. Do it to-day.

When you have read this paper, pass it on to a friend.



# The Social Revolution

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY  
LOUIS C. FRANA AT BERKELEY  
LYCEUM HALL, NEW YORK CITY,  
DECEMBER 12, 1909. : : : :

(Continued.)

Issuing from the ranks of the serfs, there rose and developed a new class, the chartered burghers and free peasants, the former organized into powerful guilds. The class represented by the guilds constituted the elements from which sprang the bourgeoisie, or future Capitalist class. The bourgeois artisans developed industry, producing rich stuffs, woollens, metal tools and weapons of a superior grade; they developed commerce, and exchanged their products for the riches of the East—precious metals, silks and spices. The new method of production and the increasing wealth of its owners, made of the bourgeoisie a powerful economic factor in feudal society, that gradually rendered the feudal class dependent upon it. Feudal rule was grounded on land, the reason therefor being the economic structure and conditions of production of the Middle Ages. Trade and industry being very slightly developed, the wealth and subsistence of society was mainly, if not wholly, derived from agriculture; the feudal class owning the land necessarily made it the then dominant class in society. Amongst the bourgeoisie there rose and slowly developed a new, the Capitalist economic system, grounded on capital—the new bourgeoisie method of production. The growing economic power of capital made its pulsations felt in the efforts of the bourgeoisie to acquire the political dominance of society with which to bulwark their economic interests. In the development of the means of production and exchange, which constituted the capital of the bourgeoisie, the feudal relations of property and rule became so many fetters, restricting the development of the bourgeoisie and its economic system. These fetters had to be burst asunder; and the then rising Capitalist Class sustained long protracted struggles in its efforts to cast off the yoke of feudalism. In these struggles the bourgeoisie sought to create a social revolution to the orchestration of "liberty, equality, fraternity"; its spokesmen created the impression that the contemplated revolution was based on an impulse of Right, of idealism. But however sincere the intellectual leaders of the bourgeoisie might have been; however their phrases might have inspired and deluded many men, especially the serfs and city proletarians, the real aim of the bourgeoisie revolution was to overthrow the feudal class, to secure for itself the political power, and usher in the "freedom of trade," so that capital might develop in unrestricted peace. What inspired the bourgeoisie was the vision of unrestricted industrial and commercial expansion, and the wealth that would thereby flow into its coffers. This lent them strength in their struggles, and they finally triumphed. Feudal rule was overthrown; the bourgeoisie, or Capitalist Class, enthroned itself as the new ruling class, and its interests became the dominant interests of society.

## The Proletarian Revolution.

The new bourgeoisie society did not realize the ideals of the revolutionists: liberty, equality and fraternity failed to materialize. "The development of industry upon a capitalistic basis made poverty and misery of the working masses conditions of existence of society. Cash payment became more and more, in Carlyle's phrase, the sole nexus between man and man. The number of crimes increased from year to year. Formerly the feudal vices had openly stalked about in broad daylight; though not eradicated, they were now at any rate thrust into the background. In their stead, the bourgeois vices, hitherto practiced in secret, began to blossom all the more luxuriantly. Trade became to a greater and greater extent cheating. The 'fraternity' of the revolutionary motto was realized in the chicanery and rivalries of the battle of competition. Oppression by force was replaced by corruption; the sword, as the first social lever, by gold. The right of the first night was transferred from the feudal lords to the bourgeois manufacturers. Prostitution increased to an extent never heard of. Marriage itself remained, as before, the legally recognized form, the official cloak of prostitution, and, moreover, was supplemented by rich crops of adultery. In a word, compared with the splendid promises of the philosophers, the social and political institutions born of the 'triumph of reason' were bitterly disappointing caricatures." (Frederick Engels, Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, pages 5-6. Labor News edition.)

The reason for this disappointment lies in that the bourgeois revolution was a class revolution, that did not do away with class antagonisms, but established new methods of oppression and consequent

class struggle in place of the old. The private ownership of the natural and social resources was not destroyed, but transferred from one class to another: hence a class struggle was inevitable.

The class struggle in modern Capitalist society is between the bourgeoisie, or Capitalist Class, owners of the means of production and exchange, and the proletariat, or Working Class, the disinherited and propertyless workers, who own nothing but their labor power, which they must sell to the capitalists in order to live and reproduce their kind.

The members of the working Class are not free. They are wage-slaves—slaves to the economic masters, to the class who owns the industrial establishments, and thereby owns the tools which the workers must use in order to live. The whip of economic necessity drives the workers to slave for these masters, whatever conditions the latter may impose upon them. It is mere buncombe and contemptible claptrap for the politicians and preachers, to prate about the Declaration of Independence guaranteeing every citizen of "free (!) America" the "inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Liberty and happiness depend upon life, and life is predicated upon an adequate supply of food, clothing and shelter. And if to live working men and women must go to an employer and humbly ask of him the chance to work, and earn the money with which to buy the requisite food, clothing and shelter, then these workers are not free; they are economically dependent upon the employing class, and economic dependence is the root of slavery. The workers must sell themselves piecemeal, like any other commodity; they are mere cogs in the huge machinery of production, have lost all individuality, and their wages are restricted to the bare necessities of life. This being so, the phrase "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" becomes, to the Working men and women, a hideous mockery.

The Working Class and the Capitalist Class have nothing in common. Whatever relation there may exist between exploiter and exploited, robber and robbed, it surely is not one of "identity of interests." The application of this latter theory to actual practice crystallizes into a Civic Federation, where labor is betrayed by its venal "leaders," or in "profit-sharing" schemes that have as their only and intended consequence riveting the chains of wage-slavery more firmly on the limbs of the Working Class. There is, and can be, no identity between these two classes; they can meet only to wage an irreconcilable conflict—a class war that can end only in the overthrow of Capitalism or in the more complete and degrading subjugation of the proletariat. Whoever prates labor is either a knave or a fool: in labor is either a knave or a fool: in either case, a danger to the proletariat.

The Capitalist Class is becoming more and more a socially useless class, an incubus that hampers the productive activity of society. The capitalist has become completely divorced from the productive process; he is an idle parasite, who does not "direct," but sponges on production; the necessary work of directing production is done by wage-workers, paid superintendents and managers.

In his day, the great Utopian, Robert Owen, remarked that the 2,500 people who worked for him—"my slaves," he called them—produced as much actual wealth for society as barely half a century before it would have required a population of 600,000 to produce, despite which pregnant fact the workers were as poor and miserable as their forefathers had been. Whereat Owen asked himself the question: "What becomes of the difference between the wealth consumed by these 2,500 people and that which would have been required for the consumption of those 600,000?" And the answer was that it went to "supplying the proprietors of the establishment with 5 per cent. interest on their investment, beside a profit of more than 2,300,000 pounds sterling."

Since Owen's day the powers of production have increased to a gigantic extent. Machinery has been perfected to the point where the "wheels move of themselves," and the wealth produced, and producible in still larger volume, is stupendous—wealth ample enough to provide for all the wants of human beings with a minimum of labor. Nevertheless, what do we see? Poverty increasing in direct ratio with the increase in the productivity of human labor; the wages of the workers remaining at a standstill, even declining, while the cost of living mounts higher and higher, with results that are truly infamous—workingmen being forced to steal and workingwomen forced to embrace Mrs. Warren's Profession, that is to say, prostitution; thousands of unemployed workers,

seeking for work, yet unable to find it, because their labor would no longer be profitable to their employers; while, in direct contrast to this gloomy picture, we see affluence and idleness on the increase amongst the Capitalist Class. Why is this so? The answer is the answer of Owen to his query—the increased wealth produced goes to pay dividends to the owners of the machinery of production, who are thereby enabled to live in idleness and luxury, while the workers rot in excessive toil and misery. The workers through surplus value are robbed of what they produce by their labor; the greater part of the wealth they create is appropriated and squandered by a class of idlers, who perform no useful labor, but reap the reward of the labor of others. To this fact is due the increasing misery and degradation of the workers, they receiving in wages but enough for them to live on the ragged edge of starvation, reproduce their kind, and thereby create new material for the insatiable mills of Mammon. There is no hope of alleviating these terrible conditions while Capitalism endures: there is no escape from this "hell of proletarianism"; for on the portal of the Capitalist Inferno are inscribed the words that Dante inscribed over the hell pictured by his imagination.

"All hope abandon, ye who enter here."  
(Lasciate ogni speranza voi che entrate)

These are the conditions—the division of society into economic classes and increasing poverty for the Working Class with increasing mechanical progress—that breed the class struggle. The emancipation of the Proletariat from their infamous servitude and degradation lies in doing away with Capitalism, the abolition of private property in the means of production and exchange, and the democratic socialization of the land and the tools with which to work.

Social evolution has provided a material basis for the realization of these demands of Socialism: the Socialist system in embryo has been evolved by the evolutionary process of Capitalist-economic development. Nursed into vigor by Capitalism itself, the identical phenomenon that we saw occur in feudalism has taken place: the rise and development of a new, this time Socialist, economic system. The individual ownership and operation of the means of production is the basis of Capitalism. Through the process of economic development individualism in production has vanished, and social production, as exemplified by our trusts, has taken its place. Ownership and appropriation, however, still continue to be individual acts, the social product being appropriated by the individual capitalist or combination of capitalists. To solve this contradiction, the cause of all its misery, the proletariat needs but to organize and transform the socialized means of production into public property, realizing social ownership as well as social production. The conditions are ripe for the proletariat to accomplish its emancipation.

Socialism is thus seen to be based on ascertained sociologic facts: the modern class struggle, on which the Socialist movement bases itself, is the product of a series of similar struggles, the present subject class the last of a series of similar subject classes; and the struggle waged between capitalists and proletarians can only result either in the emancipation of the Working Class, and progress be thereby perpetuated, or in the collapse of existing civilization.

This historical development puts Socialist aspirations on a sound material basis: in its light, the Socialist Republic looms in all its splendor, not as a mere dream of visionaries, but as the logical resultant of the inherent forces of historical development.

This fact, which should be an inspiration and strength to the Socialist movement, has, through its perversion by some people, been converted into a curse, prolific of danger to the Working Class movement for emancipation.

The poverty and degradation of the workers being due to their expropriation by Capitalism, it follows that reforms, as an end in themselves, are futile, and that only the abolition of wage-slavery can alter the degrading position of the Working Class. This is evident, and all who claim to be Socialists will subscribe to it. Nevertheless, we hear the cry welling up from the ranks of the Socialist movement for what is termed "constructive work," and we find many Socialists advocating and fighting for reform. On pointing out to these individuals the futility of reform, they will answer that they are "practical Socialists"; that the reforms they advocate are "steps" in the direction of the Socialist Republic; that their "constructive" reform work is the only true basis for

a Socialist movement; that they believe in evolution and not revolution—a position that has been well summarized by Jaures, in the phrase, "We will carry our reform work to a total and complete transformation of the existing order."

This position is an obviously weak one. Like the Utopian Socialists that held forth prior to the era of Marxian Socialism, the reformers strive for a gradual transformation of Capitalism by Socialism; they seek to realize a sufficient number of reforms, and out of them, like a yard of calico turned out by a Northrop loom, is to issue the Socialist Republic. It may be possible to ameliorate the conditions of the workers by reforms, but not do away with wage-slavery. Furthermore, the Capitalist class is not going to submit to being gradually "pared" to death; it will resist one real reform that actually menaces its interests as it would a social revolution; it would precipitate a crisis, and if the Working Class has been dissipating its energies battling for reforms, the emergency will find it unprepared, and the defeat of the Socialist movement result. All may be lost on the road of reform; little, if anything, can be gained.

The attempt to draw a distinction between revolution and evolution denotes a lack of knowledge concerning the meaning of the two terms. Evolution and revolution are not antagonistic; they are supplementary: they mark different periods in the identical process. The evolutionary process begins, for instance, from the moment conception takes place, and continues until the hour of birth sounds. At that stage evolution is capped by revolution; at one stroke a fetus, hitherto constituting a portion of the organism of the mother, becomes an independent human being. The child comes forth with all the essential organs necessary to life. Furthermore, the sudden transformation at birth is confined wholly to functions; the organs have had a pre-natal development; if the act of birth takes place before the maturity of this development, the result is death. And so with the Social Revolution. The organic structure of the Socialist Republic must develop within the womb of Capitalist society, and the Revolution must find this organic structure sufficiently developed to assume the new functions of carrying on production when Capitalism shall have been overthrown; if this development has not attained the requisite ripeness, the Revolution will prove abortive. This implies the integral industrial organization; but of this more later on. The evolutionist, who grasps the meaning of the terms he uses, must be an eventual revolutionist; the revolutionist, conscious of what he is saying, must be an evolutionist. The one complements the other.

Stripped of all his phrases, the "Socialist"-reformer is seen to be naught else than an economic fatalist. His reasoning, conscious or unconscious, is this: Socialism is inevitable, as social evolution conclusively demonstrates; the Socialist Republic being a pre-destined inevitable development, the best thing for us to do in the transition stage is to ameliorate the lot of the proletariat by wringing as many reforms as possible from the Capitalist class. So far has this fatalism been carried, that many "Socialists," such as Gaylor Wilshire, for instance, declare that the Socialist Republic will not be established by the Working Class, *per se*, but that an industrial crisis and huge unemployed problem will confront the country, and that the dominant political party, Republican or Democratic, will be therefore forced to avail itself of the only solution possible—Socialism. What Wilshire and his ilk fail to grasp is that this form of "Socialism" would be nothing else than State Capitalism, and would rivet more firmly the chains of slavery on the limbs of the workers.

## Is Socialism Inevitable?

Is Socialism inevitable? Yes and no; according to the angle of vision with which we view the subject.

Socialism is inevitable, in the sense that the members of the Working Class are human beings, endowed with human feelings, that will rebel against their miserable economic conditions; endowed with an intelligence that will make them realize the cause of their misery, and the opportunity that social evolution grants them of emancipation, and thereby emancipate the whole human race as well. Socialism is inevitable, also, in the sense that, coupled with these two factors, the revolutionary movement will be imbued with the requisite intelligence to steer clear of tactical mis-steps, and self-reliant enough to resist the lure of sops and palliatives, that dull the revolutionary fibre. In this sense, Socialism is inevitable, as day follows night.

Socialism, however, is not fatalism;

it recognizes the human factor in social evolution, and the disastrous results that may follow in the wake of a revolutionary class whose revolutionary feelings and aspirations are run into the ground by different causes operating to achieve the same end. While like conditions give birth always to same effects, the identical phenomena of the past occur in our era, with variations, due to local exigencies and social development. Nothing is the result of any particular one, but of many factors operating together. A factor that renders thorny the path of the revolutionary Socialist movement is the profound difference between past class revolutions and the revolution contemplated by the modern proletariat.

All past revolutions were, in a limited sense, automatic. Their distinctive feature was the ownership and possession by the revolutionary subject class of the material means essential to the new social system which their struggles sought to bring into being. We have seen this to be so in the case of the bourgeois. The basis of feudalism was land; the basis of the new, the oncoming social system, was capital; and the development of their economic power implied in the possession of capital, was the sign of bourgeois ripeness for revolution. The feudal lords becoming in time dependent upon the economic power of the bourgeois, rendered the latter powerful and arrogant; and where this is coupled with class interests whose development is restricted by feudal relations of property and rule, a revolution is bound to occur and to succeed. Indeed, so automatic was the bourgeois revolution; so inevitable was the change from feudal to bourgeois social supremacy, that it required no special courage or intelligence for the bourgeois to achieve success. Their revolution was marked by cowardly incapacity and vacillation; their struggles were one long series of compromises with the feudal class, even on the eve of victory; and where they made a drastic change, as in France, it was not due to their own efforts, but to the bravery of the peasants and city proletarians. The compromising nature of the bourgeois revolution can be seen from the fact that at the present time, in most European countries, huge boulders of feudalism still survive. But so inevitable was the rise of bourgeois social supremacy, due to the development of capital, the wealth of which grew vastly more in volume, hence socially powerful, than land, that, in spite of the cowardice and incapacity of the bourgeois revolutionists, the change from feudalism to capitalism was successfully accomplished.

Different is it with the Proletarian Revolution, that is destined by social evolution to end forever class rule and despotism.

The basis of the oncoming social system—the Socialist Republic—is the modern highly developed machinery of production, which, being communal and social in its operation, is therefore capable of being likewise socially owned; and which, by virtue of its tremendous powers of productivity, is enabled to free humanity from want, the fear of want, and the necessity of arduous toil to provide for our physical necessities. But the material means essential to the new social system of Socialism are, unlike the capital of the bourgeois, in the control of the ruling class, from whom the proletariat must wrest them. The Working Class is thus seen to be bereft of material economic power—a state of things prolific of danger to the Socialist movement. The revolutionary path of the bourgeois was clear of pit-falls; the development of its economic power made the bourgeois revolution an automatic one. However incapable and cowardly its leaders; however many its compromises with the foe, the eventual victory of the then rising Capitalist Class was assured, owing to its possession of capital, which rendered slight and insignificant the wealth and economic power of the land held by the feudal class. Otherwise it is with the modern proletariat, the revolutionary path of whom is strewn with obstacles that only extreme tactical caution can surmount. Compromise is of the very flesh and bone of the bourgeois revolution; the spirit of the Proletarian Revolution, on the contrary, is strictly revolutionary and uncompromising. Bereft as it is of material economic power, compromise on the part of the proletariat can only lead to disaster, in that compromise blunts its revolutionary fire and distracts attention from the real and only issue—the overthrow of Capitalism. The proletariat is propertyless and poor; poverty and misery breed lack of self-reliance, that demoralizes the will and renders servile those whom it holds within its grasp. Often is the remark heard emanating from Socialists, that if the workers do not accept Socialism by virtue of enlightened reason, they will be forced to accept it by virtue of empty stomachs. "When their stomachs rub against their backbone, they will commence to think." Nothing is wider of the mark. Poverty suggests temporary devices to alleviate its misery, and an empty stomach is more likely to

make a person think of how to fill it than to think of revolution. Sops and palliatives become captivating baits; and in the desire for temporary relief, the revolutionary spark is apt to be smothered and extinguished. Or else the poisonous cauldron of misery may boil over, and the miserable slaves of capital break forth, in a fury of hate and vengeance, and wreck and murder in their blind despair; a futile revolt that the Capitalist Class will ferociously suppress—in either case, misery becoming, not a weapon for proletarian emancipation, but of proletarian suicide. Only uncompromising revolutionary activity, and sound, militant organization can neutralize these dangers.

The Socialist movement must rigorously exclude all fatalism from its councils. The Socialist Republic will not come as a bolt from a clear sky; it is no predestined social development; it depends upon evolution, and, coupled with this, clearness of vision on the part of the proletariat to help the evolutionary process. And neither is misery sufficient to bring the Social Revolution to a successful issue; if it were, the Revolution would have been accomplished ere this, for there is no lack of misery in the world. Education and organization are what is now required—organization drilled and disciplined to achieve the Social Revolution.

What specific forms shall this organization assume, and what tactics must the Socialist movement pursue to attain success?

The theory of "surplus value" flows from the principle that labor creates all wealth, is the source of all value. The value of a commodity is determined by the labor socially necessary for its production; capitalists and stockholders performing no socially necessary function, their "work" being the deprecatory work of pocketing the wealth produced by others, they add no value to a commodity. The workers producing all wealth and getting back in wages a mere pittance, the remainder appropriated by the capitalist is "surplus value"—that portion of wealth produced by labor over and above the wages needed for the workers' subsistence. "Surplus value" has existed since the rise of private property and class rule, only the method of its appropriation by the master class has changed with the changing mode of production.

"Historical materialists," who are always prating of the term without grasping its significance, will no doubt deny that a collapse of existing civilization is possible; "the proletariat must conquer!" is their cry. The dangers besetting the path of the Proletarian Revolution, making it not at all "inevitable" are dealt with further on in the text.

For the present, the following may be said: All social phenomena demonstrate that a revolution will occur in the near future; but this revolution may come either as a Socialist revolution, or as a cataclysm. In the latter event occurring, two results may follow: either the "common ruin" of the contending classes, in which case we would see a revival of barbarism; or else the Capitalist Class come out victorious, with sufficient vitality to thoroughly organize and strengthen its oligarchic rule.—It is questionable whether, here in America, we are living under capitalism proper; we are in a monopoly period, that may be appropriately designated as "Plutocratic Feudalism." It is not baseless, or a vagary, to assume that, as industry becomes more thoroughly organized, more thoroughly concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, a new ruling class will be evolved, consisting of the great plutocrats and the members of the "new middle class"—managers, superintendents, professional men, etc.; production be strictly regulated, producing sufficient to maintain the master class in luxury, and dole out to the workers enough to keep body and limb together; anarchy in production and crises be eliminated; work provided for the unemployed; and the Working Class be held down to a level of serfs. A powerful police and military power would necessarily be organized, and steps in this direction are already visible in increased naval armament, clamors for an increase in the strength of the regular army, and the secret enactment of the Dick Militia Law.

It has been a common move of the ruling class in all history, when conservatism and other methods failed in preserving its supremacy, to precipitate a premature revolt of the enslaved class, and then bloody suppress the insurrection. One who has studied the labor movement in America can fully grasp this important fact, for instances are numerous of the Capitalist Class inciting the workers, through the agency of Pinkerton spies and agents provocateurs, to premature revolt, riot and bloodshed. The Paris Commune should indelibly impress this lesson on our minds; for at that time the French Capitalist Class under the leadership of Thiers, invited and precipitated a premature revolt of the Parisian proletariat, when the latter

was unprepared to sustain a conflict, and the result was defeat for the heroic Communards. A premature growth of the Socialist movement, made possible by compromise, by conciliating the prejudices of the proletariat, by adopting a "broad," "tolerant" policy, by advocating immediate demands, and thereby gain the votes of discontented bourgeois radicals, would be a grave danger; for if the Capitalist Class would precipitate a crisis, this "discontented" element would melt away like chaff before the wind, and leave the real revolutionary Socialists in the lurch, to be dealt with unmercifully by the master class. The Socialist movement must be uncompromising; must gather into its ranks thorough revolutionists, even though progress be slow; for only thus can we be prepared to meet the duplicity, brutality and stratagems of the Capitalist Class.

At one time defenders of Capitalism, and many "Socialist"-reformers, sought to discredit the idea of a Social Revolution, a sudden change from Capitalism to Socialism, by prating of the "slowness of evolution" in nature. The pseudo-Darwinians are mainly to blame for the error. The theory which magnified the slowness of evolution has been exploded by the researches of Hugo De Vries and other scientists. In his book on "Mutation," De Vries demonstrated that, while the previous evolution in organic life was slow and gradual, the change itself that gave birth to a new species was a sudden leap—revolution. Nature develops both by evolution and revolution.

(To be concluded.)

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## WEEKLY PEOPLE

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The architect who on the mind of man would rear his dome, must from the mind

Itself carve his material, lest like boys he acts, who in the sand for fitting hours

Their figures draw! These fancy-lines are swept

Away, dissolved by the first swell that springs

Up from the masses, and that dashes on Your dreams.

—LASSALLE (Franz von Sickingen).

## THE DEBTOR CLASS IN CLOVER.

The depreciation of money through the depreciation of gold is raising a spectacle that is the exact opposite, yet counterpart, of the spectacle raised when the depreciation of silver set the 16 to 1 movement agoing in the nineties.

In the nineties, it was the debtor class that kicked; now the debtor class is in clover.

The identical dollar that figures in the capacity of a "medium of payment," also figures in the capacity of a "medium of exchange." This double function of money is the cause of much confusion on the subject, and the fertile source of much mystification. Close reasoning will remove the confusion, sweep away the mystification, and keep the mind immune against the wiles of demagogue and plutogogue alike.

The ordinary transaction of purchase and sale, that is, the transaction in which the purchaser takes his goods on the spot and the seller his money, is disguised barter. A vast human experience of thousands of years back of it settled upon the precious metals as the one merchandise, easily portable, into which all others were to be translated. The next step to that was the saving to the individual the trouble of weighing the metal at each transaction. Thus coin was born. At eight, its weight was ascertainable. Thus money came into existence. Accordingly, money, used in such capacity, is a "medium of exchange"; accordingly, again, value is exchanged for value. If the value of the gold in the coin declines, then more such coins will be needed to exchange for other goods; if the value of other goods declines then more of them will be needed to exchange with the original coin. Obviously, barter being the essence of ordinary mercantile transactions, the seller will not part with goods for less gold than the coin is intrinsically worth; nor, conversely, will the purchaser part with his gold for less value in whatever other goods are offered for sale. The final conclusion of all this is that the decline, or the rise, in the value of gold, like the decline, or the rise, in value of other property in the market is self-adjustable; is self-adjusted; it causes no conflict among property-holders.

But money figures also in another capacity. The next step to the coin stage with money, where it figures in barter, is the stage where it figures in the liquidation of debts—a function that indicates an advanced state of society. Already at the coin stage there is a society whose word is taken. The coin is usually accepted at the value stamped on it. Nevertheless, the seller need not, and does not accept the same if for any reason he doubts the word of society stamped on the coin. It is otherwise with money as a debt-payer. The debtor, who, at the maturity of his debt, lays down the amount of coin contracted for, is said to make a "legal tender," and the creditor has no choice but to accept the same. The value of the gold may have declined, but as the contract calls for so and so much coin, so and so much coin remains payment. Money, accordingly, in its function of a "debt payer" depends upon the fiat of Government. The obvious conclusion of this is that he who has a debt, contracted years ago

when gold was more valuable, and maturing to-day when gold is less valuable, is in clover. He can legally cancel his debt with a coin that is less valuable than when he contracted the debt.

Thus, at present, the high-price question is again a money question—only the storm now blows from another quarter. In the nineties, the debtor class had to cancel its debts with a coin that was more valuable than when the debt was contracted—hence the debtor called the creditor an "extortionist," and the creditor called the debtor who sought to pay in 16 to 1 a "repudiator." To-day, the storm is blowing from the opposite quarter. The debtor class now can cancel its obligations with a coin that is less valuable than when the debt was contracted—hence a number of financial earthquakes, in which creditor and debtor have not yet started to call each other names, but which illumine this "best of all social systems," as capitalism loves to call itself.

## THE LABOR PARTY.

There is a certain mirror in which the Socialist who oppose a "Labor Party," on principle, and those who favor a "Labor Party," on principle, should look at their own perspectives. 'Twill cause them to understand themselves better. If at all they have eyes to see, they will be able to detect the cloven hoof held in common by the two notions—and, if they have brains to think, they will quickly take backwater.

Our opposers of a "Labor Party," on principle, gather a vast material from American and British "Labor parties" to back up their views. They cite the cases in which the K. of L. carried municipalities only to display the party's impotence and ineptness; they cite the case of the San Francisco "Labor Party" whose Mayor landed in prison, a convicted boodler; they cite the instances in Great Britain where the "Labor party" fuses with the Liberals in many a constituency, and where Laborites in Parliament more than once strike attitudes that are essentially bourgeois.

On the other hand, those who favor a "Labor Party," on principle, take the witness stand with testimony that is equally unimpeachable. They cite the instance of the Socialist party in Wisconsin, where, notwithstanding the party numbers several members in the Legislature and boasts of what these accomplish, Wisconsin remains the most backward State in Labor legislation for the protection of the worker's life and limbs; they cite the case of James Carey in Haverhill who voted a \$15,000 Armory appropriation, and whose misconduct seems rather to have endeared him to the S. P. than to have earned the party's reprobation; they cite the more recent instance of dicker with the capitalist politicians perpetrated by the St. Louis S. P., and sanctioned by the party.

Planted upon the first set of facts the anti-Labor Party men pronounce a "Labor Party" unspeakable; planted, in turn, upon the second set of facts, "unspeakable" is the term that the pro-Labor Party men apply to a political party that is not set up by the Unions. He who would understand the source of such reasoning, and thereby grasp the reason of its defect, should turn to the reasoning of the pure and simple physical forist and the pure and simple politician against each other.

With a truthfulness that is unimpeachable, as far as it goes, the pure and simple physical forist convicts pure and simple politicianism of corruption; with a truthfulness, equally unimpeachable, as far as it goes, the pure and simple politician convicts pure and simple physical forism likewise of corruption.

What is the feature that the conflict between the pure and simple politician and the pure and simple physical forist reveals as common to both the disputants? That feature is the crippled mind, unable to hold two thoughts together. In the crippled mind only one thought can find lodgement at a time. The entrance of one thought implies the expulsion of another. Synthesis, the co-ordination of two or more thoughts, a process without which reasoning is struck with paralysis—that process is an unknown thing to the pure and simple physical forist and the pure and simple politician alike. In the mind of each only one thought finds room. The thought that, without physical force wherewith to carry out the program which political action agitates, educates and organizes for, political action is an idle pastime—that thought is the sole tenant of the narrow chamber of the pure and simple physical forist's mind; the thought that, without the agitation, education and organization brought about by political action, physical force never can crystallize to a purpose—that thought crowds out all others from the equally narrow brain-cells of the pure and simple politician. The feature of these two opposites is, mental lameness—one-legged hobbyism. The psychology of these two is the psychology of the anti-"Labor Party" and the pro-"Labor Party" exclusivists.

The fatal defects that mark the

"Labor Parties" known in America and the Socialist party are not defects inherent in either a party organically, or in a party not organically of Unions. The fatal defects that mark the two is that, unclear upon the actual goal of the Socialist or Labor Movement, the exclusive pro-"Labor Partyite" and the exclusive anti-"Labor Partyite" have taken hold of only a fractional, and have no sense of the four-jointed truth.

The panels of the Socialist Republic, evolution unquestionably establishes, must be the organized useful occupations of the land: the central administrative authority of the Co-operative Commonwealth can consist of none other than the representatives of these organizations. This truth reaches the mind of the exclusive pro-"Labor Partyite" through the narrow spectacles of his special training. There are in existence only industrial organizations. He concludes from this that none other will, or can, or should exist; hence he arrives at the tactical posture of rejecting all political party that is not strained through the loins of Unions.

Again, the Socialist Republic, evolution establishes with equal certainty, means the emancipation of mankind. This truth, in turn, reaches the mind of the exclusive anti-"Labor Partyite" through the spectacles of his special training. As a rule an "intellectual," actual or would-be, this species is able to perceive in Unionism a thing capable of embracing only a fraction of mankind. Hence he arrives at the tactical posture of rejecting all political party strained through the loins of Unions.

The synthesis of the two fractional truths—the truth that the constituencies of the Socialist Republic are bound to be the organized useful occupations, that is, Unions; and the truth that the Socialist Republic must be the tocsin of human emancipation—the synthesis of these two truths allows no conclusions other than—

1st. The mission of Unionism in the land is to embrace all the people who render useful services to the commonweal—not the manual, or industrial workers only, but those as well whose occupation consists in rendering to society those services which its mental and spiritual aspirations demand;

2nd. The political party fit to serve as the vanguard of the true Unionist Movement, must be one strained through the loins of that Movement itself;—the true political party of the Revolution can not choose but be a Labor Party;

3rd. As the scaffolding of a building precedes the building itself, and the building once raised, becomes superfluous, a political party, whose agitation centers in and radiates from the principle that its mission is to call into existence the true Unionist Movement, such a political party must inevitably precede the formation of true Unionism;

4th.—Until the true Unionist Movement has arisen and gathered the strength sufficient to give birth to the Labor Party, a "Labor Party" can only be an abortion for the identical reason that anti-"Labor Partyism" is an abortion to-day—the latter, as well as the former, being the spawn of Truths so fractional that they are robust Unions, hence inevitably corrupt, neither having anything to twit the other with.

## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH CONGRESS?

There is something going on in the House of Representatives for which explanation is hard to find.

Early in the session Representative Albert Douglas introduced a bill to establish a Bureau of Mines in the Department of the Interior.

Such a bill is true to all the canons of capitalist politics and economics. First of all such a bill provides jobs for hungry placemen;

Secondly, and above all, such a bill affords one of the best narcotics to narcotize the rank and file of the working class. Mine disasters are numerous; they happen through the stinginess of the employer to provide safety appliances, and they happen through his rush for wealth. As things generally are to-day, the reasons for these disasters are obvious—too obvious for the comfort of the front-pew-holding capitalist. State laws have been devised to conceal the obviousness. By sticking a "prominent labor leader," some enthusiastic Gompersite, into the office of Mine Inspector the employer can rest assured that he has "a friend at court." The unavoidable "acts of God" will thenceforth piously assume responsibility for at least the edge of the disasters. Montana, Pennsylvania, in short, all the States with such "Mine Inspectors," are so many stages on which that kind of vaudeville show is a continuous performance. George Harrison, the mine inspector of Ohio, githilly stated the qualification of a miner nowadays to be "a Union card and a keg of powder." With the "keg of powder" he blazes his employer's path to affluence, with the "Union card" he screens his employer from prosecution, thanks to the "Mine Inspector." For all that, State laws are not what

Federal laws would be; moreover, if there are Federal laws, besides State laws, then the employer's "friends at court" can be more numerous; some more Gompersite labor leaders can be placed comfortably where they may illustrate the reciprocity of the interests of Capitalist and Wage Slave, and "promote harmony."

All this notwithstanding, the Douglas bill is meeting with intense opposition.

How explain the opposition? How account for the spokes that are thrust into the wheels of the Douglas bill? The conduct of Congress, as it tosses the Douglas bill on its horns, is the puzzle of the day;—and none is more puzzled than the Hon. Ralph W. Moss of Indiana, who, on the floor of the House, solemnly assured his colleagues that such a bill would "establish harmony between the men who own the mines and those who work them."

## CONFIRMATORY SIDE-LIGHTS.

Last week, in an article headed "The Civic Federation on Top," and while the so-called Socialist party press, in chorus with the bourgeois press, were acclaiming with joy the "solidification" of the Western Federation of Miners with Mitchell's, or Mitchell's proxy Lewis's United Mine Workers, the warning was issued in these columns to the workers of the land that the "solidification" move engineered by the Moyers, Mahoneys, O'Neills, in short, by the head officers of the W. F. of M., was a move against the rank and file of their organization; the finger was pointed to the fact that the turbulence of the rank and file of the W. F. of M., a turbulence that frequently breathed the revolutionary breath of proletarianism, drove the small bourgeois officers of the W. F. of M. into alliance with their fellow class folks, the small bourgeois officers of the Mitchell concern, and drove them to seek shelter under the yoke of Top-Capitalism, organized in the Civic Federation, where the Mitchell small bourgeois "Union" officers had already found and enjoyed shelter.

Again—In the course of the last two months authentic facts galore were reproduced in these columns, all of which answered the question, What is the matter with the Socialist party?—a question that had sprung up all over the S. P. camp even before the elections of 1909, and which, after the elections, at sight of the melting "membership," together with the collapsed "vote," once so boastfully paraded, wrote from the chest of Mr. A. M. Simons the admission and answer: "The S. P. has become a hissing and a by-word with the actual wage-workers of America."

Now then—Upon both subjects—the one regarding the meaning of the "consolidation" of the W. F. of M. with the U. M. W., and the other regarding "What is the matter with the S. P.?"—unexpected light is thrown by a signed article from William D. Haywood, and published in the New York "Volkszeitung" of the 2nd of the current month.

In that article, after arguing that the convention of the United Mine Workers had wasted most of its time over trifles, while it side-tracked the important issue of how to prevent the shocking mine catastrophes that are recurring with gressome frequency from Pennsylvania to Colorado, Haywood says:

"And upon the Socialist party also, in its character of a party of Labor, rests a full measure of responsibility for these mine catastrophes. Never did the S. P. take steps to enlighten the members of the United Mine Workers upon the disgrace of contracts with the aid of which the Socialist members of the Unions are shackled and gagged"; and, as an illustration of what such agreements import, Haywood cites an agreement, now in force between the mine owners and the District organizations of the U. M. W. in a region where mine explosions are frequent, and which runs as follows: "The business administration of the mines and the disposition over the employees is left exclusively in the hands of the Mine Owners' Association. The United Mine Workers shall in no wise abridge these rights."

Small wonder that the small bourgeois officers of the W. F. of M. draw near the dittos of the U. M. W.; small wonder that the overlordship of Gompers, the first Vice-President of the Civic Federation, is attracted to such folks; still smaller wonder that the S. P., which connives at, and throws the mantle of Socialism over bourgeois misdeeds to the injury of the proletariat, "has become a hissing and a by-word with the actual wage-workers of America."

N. B.—We imagine we can hear someone ask: "Did you say that Haywood article appeared in the 'Volkszeitung'?"—Yes.—In the "Volkszeitung" one of the S. P. papers that has been shouting "Hoop-la!" and has just

been singing "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay!" at the great Socialist progress made at the late convention of the U. M. W.?"—Why, yes. "In the 'Volkszeitung,' whose man Jacob Franz, before he was gathered to the bosom of Abraham, used to fill the 'Neue Zeit' of Germany with thrilling articles concerning the class-consciousness of Mitchell's, set, and, thanks to which articles, Mitchell was hailed by the Socialists of Germany as 'Genosse Mitchell'?"—Yes, indeed. "But how can that be? Or is the 'Volkszeitung' 'coming our way'?"—The answer is very simple—once in a while the "Volkszeitung" feels, compelled thereto by the S. L. P. press, to hold correct language. Whereupon having "burnt a candle to St. Michael," the paper feels forthwith free to "worship St. Michael's dragon" by holding language that will enable it to draw its hand back with some cash, dropped into it by the dragon. That dragon has many shapes—one time it appears in the shape of a "Label Committee"; another time in the shape of some labor fakir, like Niedermyer, about to abscond with his Union's fund, and wanting a "puft"; another time the dragon assumes the shape of a fat Baumann advertisement to hush up some installment-plan iniquity; and so on. Like the Devil this dragon can and does assume any number of shapes.

## THE MONSTRILLA STAGE AHEAD.

Paradoxical though it be, commodities are now economically cheaper than they have ever been before. That is to say, measured by some absolute standard, if any there be, a loaf of bread, for instance, would be found exchanging for less to-day than it has at any past period of the world's history. Though no capitalist dare admit it—because its implications convict him of being the sponger upon labor that he is—that standard exists. It is the amount of socially necessary labor power crystallized in the commodity itself. When it is considered that commodities exchange in the long run at their exchange value, and that exchange-value is determined by the quantity of socially-necessary labor power requisite for their production, and that, finally, the entire march of modern industry is toward reducing the amount of labor power embodied in a commodity, the conclusion of an unprejudiced cheapness of goods cannot be escaped.

Yet no fact is more completely obscured by the fictions thrown up around it. The standard of value commonly used, and considered by horizonless economists as fixed, is not fixed. That standard is gold; and gold being itself a commodity, it undergoes the same fluctuations and gradual cheapening as other articles in the same category. As gold happens to have cheapened faster than almost any other commodity, the phenomenon is seen of all articles of consumption hastening toward greater cheapness; gold, the accepted measure of value, outstripping all the rest; by this very outstripping making itself exchangeable for an ever smaller amount of other articles; and thus making it appear as if all the other articles had increased in value, whereas they have actually lessened. Thus the paradox is explained. Actually, absolutely, goods are cheaper; but considered in relation to gold, they are vastly dearer.

The effects of this progression upon the workingman are ominous. While the commodities upon which he lives are, it is true, cheapening, he must buy those commodities with his money wages, which due to the process just outlined are cheapening still faster. Thus although the employing class, ably assisted by its A. F. of L. labor lieutenants, may point to a stationary or even a slightly rising wage for the workers in recent years, they carefully hide under a bushel the fact that even that increased money wage falls to go as far as the lower wage did previously when the wages themselves were worth more. Columns of wages paid may thus apparently show a gain for the wage earner; in fact they conceal a huge loss. Their face value may have remained the same, or gone up; their actual value, or purchasing power, has in all cases gone down.

Hence it comes that the cost of living is now at an acute high level never before known in this country. Bradstreet's index on its 96 standard commodities for January 1, 1910, is \$9,2310, an increase of 1.1 per cent. over the previous high record of March 1, 1907. Confined to 59 articles entering into personal consumption, and which affect the wage earner most directly, the rise is even steeper. What could be bought in 1896 for \$4,2177 would now cost \$7,2617—an increase of nearly 75 per cent. In those 14 years meats have increased about 75 per cent., textiles 83 per cent., and breadstuffs an appreciable fraction over a full 100 per cent. In some edibles prices have tripled. War time

figures are no longer things to conjure with; they are back numbers. Instead of the people bringing on the high prices by "insisting upon the freshest eggs, the purest milk, the best butter, and the best cuts of meat," as one heels-over-head retainer of capital recently declared, the people by reason of those same high prices, over which they have no control, are having increasingly to put up with any old kind of eggs, any old kind of milk, any old kind of butter, any old kind of meat—if, indeed, they get any of these at all.

Fifty years ago Dana, the naturalist, found on the surface of the sea a little animal so singular in character that he called it the "monstrilla," or little monster. Its distinctive feature was that it had neither means to capture food, nor to digest it if it could. As Dana says, it is "born to starve to death." Living organisms can evolve downward as well as up. One of two things—either the monstrilla stage is ahead for the American workman, or he must save himself by the means of Social Revolution.

## BLESSFUL "INSISTENCE," HARMFUL "OBJECTION."

At a meeting of the City Club, recently held to discuss the question of raising the salary of women teachers, Dr. John B. Clark of Columbia University is reported to have "insisted" that the law of supply and demand must control wages of teachers, as it controls the wages of all other wage earners, in other words, as it controls the price of all commodities. The report adds that Miss Grace Strachan, the estimable woman teacher who has led the move for the equalization of salaries, objected to the market value idea. It made her think, she said, of carrots and potatoes, things with which she objected to be classed.

The statement of Dr. Clark and the objection of Miss Strachan present a unique, withal an instructive picture. Dr. Clark, the representative of reaction, was right, and, despite himself, the law upon which he "insisted" is a law that makes for progress. Miss Strachan, the representative of progress, was wrong, and despite herself, the sentiments she clung to are stumbling blocks to progress.

The law of supply and demand determines the price of goods in the market. Whatever has a "market" is "goods," or merchandise, a commodity. There being, under capitalism, a "labor market," as well as a "cattle market," it follows that, under capitalism, labor is "goods," or merchandise, a commodity. The logical insistence upon this law, regardless of all sentimental trammels, is an earnest that the logic of capitalist rule will be pushed to the breaking point. By ruthlessly insisting upon a law of capitalist economics that brings home their merchandise quality to ever increasing numbers; by ruthlessly breaking through all sentimentalism, and insisting upon a law that tears up sentiment by the roots, capitalism deprives, and the law of its existence compels it to deprive, itself of the protection of a superstition that blinds its victims to their own interest. Columbia's Dr. Clark's insistence is precious for good.

For obvious reasons Miss Strachan's objection is harmful. So long as any division of the Army of Labor lives in memories of a past which capitalism has thrown into the Museum of Antiquity; so long as any division of the Army of Labor still rocks its mind in the superstition that it is human and not chattel;—just so long will the Army of Labor be a sort of mob, easily routed, captured and enslaved by the capitalist class. Not until that superstition has worn itself out; not until the consciousness of the proletariat—whether intellectual or manual—will have descended into the hell of Merchandise conditions;—not until then will they be able to ascend to the heaven of Emancipation.

The Social Revolution is awaiting the consequences, all along the line of the market stalls in which labor is for sale, of the law of supply and demand upon which the Columbia Dr. Clarks insist. Then will dawn the day when the Merchandise Labor, emancipated in all its stalls—intellectual and manual—of the superstition that, under capitalism, it is above carrots and potatoes, will pull itself together out of the carrot-and-potato, that is, out of the merchandise category; and, its chest swelling with the dignity of Manhood and Womanhood, its mind equipped with the gospel of Socialism, break the chains of wage slavery, and enter into the full physical, mental and spiritual fruition of Life.

## Railroad Men Good to Their Bosses.

Chicago, February 4.—Prospects of a strike by the 33,000 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, practically were stopped by a step taken yesterday by the firemen's committee in making overtures to the railroad looking to a continuance of wage negotiations.



UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN.

BROTHER JONATHAN—I and some other reformers, I mean those who advocate public ownership of railroads, street cars, etc., were holding a discussion the other day. A man in the audience broke in upon us with the following questions: "But how do you propose to get possession of these properties, which are tied up with charters, deeds and every conceivable kind of legal protection—do you intend to confiscate them?"

UNCLE SAM—What answer did they make?

B. J.—They answered "No!" And then the man went on to say: "The value of these railroads, etc., of the country represents about \$10,000,000,000—do you propose to buy them; are you ready to tax yourselves to this amount?"

U. S.—I guess the same "No" oozed out of the capitalist brains.

B. J.—Yes; and don't you really think that this squarely knocked Socialism out in two rounds?

U. S.—(bristling up)—Socialism "knocked out"? Not much! Do you know who those were who called themselves Socialists and were knocked out?

B. J.—Why, Socialists, I thought.

U. S.—Nary! They were a lot of middle class folks. Recalling before the necessary consequences of capitalism which they uphold, they were of course easily "knocked out" in short order.

B. J.—But what would a Socialist have answered?

U. S.—If the Socialist happened to be in a statistical and bantering mood he would have answered, "Yes, we mean to buy all those things—that is to say, we mean to pay for them. But if a man from whom you buy anything is your debtor you will first deduct the debt he owes you and you pay him the balance only."

B. J.—That is what I would do.

U. S.—Very well. The Socialist would have continued thusly: "We would first appraise the things, watered stock being first squeezed out"—at this point the capitalist questioner's jaw would begin to drop.

B. J.—(brightening up)—Guess so; good!

U. S.—The Socialist would have gone on: "Then we would estimate all the debts due the Government by the owners of those things; all the debts they have dodged; all the fines they should have paid for violation of the law, etc., etc. After that much arithmetic and statistics there may possibly be left a nickle due the owners of those things, and we shall be quite able to and will cheerfully pay."

B. J.—Bully! That tune sounds very different from the one the questioner was treated to.

U. S.—Exactly. But the Socialist might have been in a wicked mood; in that case he would have left statistics go and answered thusly, to wit: "Sir, did the North buy the slaves it set free during and after the war? Did the North tax itself to pay them off? Did the American Revolutionary fathers tax themselves to pay King George? Nary! they said slavery is wrong, the slaveholder is a criminal and a rebel; away with his Negro slaves; and these were set free without further ado: 'These colonies are free.'"

B. J.—(clapping his hands)—Better yet!

U. S.—By the time the Socialist got so far your capitalist questioner would have been seized with the cramps and would not have been in a condition to hear the Socialist proceed, saying: "The Declaration of Independence establishes the principle that when a social institution ceases to promote the welfare of the people, these have the right and duty to abolish it, or to so alter it that its foundations may be most likely to effect their safety and happiness. We propose to abolish it and rear in its stead the Co-operative Commonwealth. Get from under!"

B. J.—By Jove! There are no flies on Socialism. He who comes up against it comes up against a buzzsaw.

U. S.—And don't you forget it.

When you have read this paper, pass it on to a friend.



# CORRESPONDENCE

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name will attach such name to their communications, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

## DEFEATED BY CRAFT SCABBERY AGAIN.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The Switchmen's strike is about to come to an end. Another lesson of the pure and simple union members scabbing on one another is thus recorded. The switchmen out of the "strike zone" made up trains so that scabs did not have anything to do but to sit them out at St. Paul and take them to "Minn." transfer and Minneapolis. The trainmen and conductors did likewise. The union engineers and firemen are doing all they can to help the company out.

Some of the switchmen, trainmen and conductors have got their eyes open now. They see where the company uses one organization to beat down another, "organization" is of no avail. Such "organization" renders the men helpless.

It is only a matter of time when the membership will overthrow the fakirs and organize on industrial lines.

J. F. Flynn.  
St. Paul, Minn., January 28.

## TOM WATSON, EXPLOITER OF LABOR.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Tom Watson, the big "Injun" Populist, has lately taken up much space in The People. The man is moved by his immediate material interest. As my father was a slave holder, I need not tell you what side he chose in the late Civil War. As it was to his interest there and then, he was with the Southern Confederacy. To know who Tom Watson is, it is only necessary to learn what his immediate material interests are. As to his interest here and now to advocate Socialism? In other words, is it to his interest to abolish private property in land? It is that no more than it would have been to my father's interest to abolish private property in "Niggers."

Some two years since I was in Tom Watson's home town in Georgia. I learned that he was a meaner and more brutal skinner of "Niggers" than even my father in slave days. He owns 5,000 acres of land. For the very reason that his lands are very poor, he becomes a more brutal skinner. He asks the Negro the same rent for an acre that only yields one-half a bale of cotton to an acre as others ask for land that yields two bales per acre. As a matter of course, Tom would damn Socialism and even misrepresent it. How could we expect anything else when his private property in land gives him the power to skin his "Niggers" to his heart's content. Why should we waste any words on these capitalist Tom cats?

Charles Sherwin.  
Indianola, Miss., January 28.

## PIERSON NEVER IDLE ON SUBS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Enclosed find two subs to the Arbeiter and three to the Weekly People, with money order for same. I managed to pick up these subs during my search for a master, will try to get some more during the coming week.

One application has been secured for membership, and with the assistance of Comrades La Coste and Kern we will do all we can to re-organize Section New Orleans. It is our intention to hold outdoor meetings every Saturday night, weather permitting, and in this way we hope to accomplish good results by pushing the Party press and literature.

There are any number of jobless slaves looking for a master in New Orleans, with very poor prospects of finding one. Down at the fruit docks whenever a fruit boat comes in, you can see an army of slaves swarming around the boss, who has the contract of unloading these boats, fighting for a chance to work a few hours at 25 cents per hour. The struggle for existence is intense, and it will become more so as long as this hellish system lasts. Let us speed the day for its final overthrow.

Chas. Pierson.  
New Orleans, La., January 28.

## "VOT IS DER MATTER WID DER SOWHALLIST BARDY?"

To der Tally und Weekly Peoples:—Ya? Can you make me dis answer: Vot is der matter wid der Sowhallist Bardy? Noddings is der matter, iss it not? Vell, der oply trubel is der trubel vich vos making made by dot teller by der name of Walling, by der publication of der letter der him

his freund Simon ritten has.

Ach, der Jober Himmel! Vot a shamefulness, to let der "Tally Beobles" und der tam Te Leon know dot der drades Unions are effer readiness to lick our great bardy because ve are tam foolings wid der taedigs. Ach, dere iss no vords I can remember to express my great sorrowfulness about der agtion of der Schafkopf Walling, iss it? When I readed der letter in der "Tally Gall," I lost der temper und pegame madfulness, so mooch so dot I vent to Herr Spiegelberg's saluhn und ordered einen grossen Schnaps: von, dwo, dree dimes, und den my temper vos readiness to become kool und blazid again.

In der meandime der developings in our bardy continuation to go on. "Mother iss der intentioning of der necessaries," says a good old proverb. Our bardy is no exception from der rulings. We vill reorganisation our bardy upon der basings of a grosse Leber Bardy, wid all der Unions on der insidings of der fence and all der Sowhallists on der outsidings, und impelled wid all der glass concessionsless bossible und unbossible. Der Vorking glass of der Yuneitd Shtades und surroundness can bet der poots: Widdin fife years ve vill election our first night votchman of der Vite House, und den ve vill be der triumph und der victoriously. No, Sir, dere iss noddings der matter wid der Sowhallist bardy, tank you!

August Querschnabel.  
Pumpkin Corner, Mo., 27 Januar.

## CHICAGO "SOCIALIST" EMBRACING SLUMMISTS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The Chicago "I-am-a-bum" contingent would have ceased to exist long ago were it not for the free advertising it gets from the Chicago Daily "Socialist." As all People readers remember, there was in Chicago the "Local 85, I. W. W.," in which the slum element finally got the upper hand. Among the leaders of this element were the professional workmen the ex-Reverend McIntosh, one Tobias and one Luquist, all of original "box car tourist" fame. The trio later on were convicted of counterfeiting and sent to the penitentiary. McIntosh got 8 years. The other two escaped with slight terms, and are now at liberty again. They were strong adherents of the Mrs. Flynn-Jones doctrine of "instalment-expropriation," and bitter denouncers of political action and the S. L. P. They also gloried in how they had created disorder at S. P. meetings. This same Tobias was last week advertised in the Daily "Socialist" as a speaker on "Industrial Unionism." And still the question is asked, "What's the matter with the S. P.?"

S. L. P.  
Chicago, Ill., January 28.

## BEAUTIES OF CAPITALISM TO BLESS BRICKMAKERS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The Brickmakers' Unions of Chicago and vicinity are this spring confronted with the possibility of a strike to enforce their wage-scale. The manufacturers are installing newly invented labor displacing machinery and will try to break up the union.

The union is confident that the manufacturers will have to come to terms, although the officials admit that a large number of their members will be thrown out of work.

This new machinery will throw out of work ten per cent. of the most skilled brickmakers; this is according to a statement made by officials of the Chicago unions. Two hundred members of the Chicago local unions of brickmakers, earning on the average \$4.50 per day, will be permanently thrown out of work. Let us say that those brickmakers each averaged \$1,000 per year. This means then a saving of \$200,000 per year in wages, which then will largely be added to the profits of the brick company.

It is safe to assume that this will happen in all brickyards throughout the country. It eliminates entirely ten per cent. of the most skilled workmen in the industry. This adds one more industry in which skill is becoming more and more superfluous, due to modern machinery.

No doubt the brickmakers made idle through this invention will now have plenty of time in which to contemplate the workings of the capitalist system. In which every great genius and mechanical inventor becomes a curse, instead of a blessing, by throwing the workers out of employment with consequent poverty and degradation. Indeed, were it not for the encouraging

hope of Socialism, the workers would have a gloomy future.

A. S. C.  
Chicago, Ill., January 27.

## PURE AND SIMPLE "ARISTOCRACY" PUNCTURED.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—An incident which took place a few days ago in the shop in which the writer is employed was of such a ludicrous character that a recital of it may prove interesting to readers of The People. The scene was laid in the composing room of a capitalist daily newspaper and the actors were men regarded as the aristocracy of pure and simple craft unionism. That mentally they should tower head and shoulders above their fellow wage slaves would seem but natural from the very nature of this work, and no doubt accounts for the misnomer they have inherited. Trained in the philosophy of the pure and simple school, the agitation started by the capitalist press against the Beef Trust for the purpose of having the workers voluntarily familiarize themselves with the lower standard of living to which they must shortly submit, was taken to by these intellectual giants with the same alacrity that the bourgeois takes to profits. Gliding rapidly over the thin ice of blissful ignorance, totally oblivious of the air hole of capitalist "justice" into which two of their "leaders," Gompers and Mitchell, had already "skated," these determined gentlemen were not going to be deterred by the experience of the above named skates and were bent on putting the trust out of commission. But they lacked some one to take the initiative. No one volunteering, the writer, in a spirit of sarcasm, drew up the following: "We, the undersigned, refuse to abstain from eating meat for a period of one year, or longer if still alive." Having signed it himself, he met opposition from the first prospective signer, who, after reading it over carefully, balked—bless you, no, not on the phrasology, but on the length of time. He was willing to try it for 30 days, and at his suggestion the time was changed. One after another the names went down, and remarkable as it may seem, only about one in ten, after reading it over carefully, knew what he had signed. One young man, a devout Catholic, on being told it went into effect with the affixing of his signature, stated he was going to have chicken for dinner Sunday and would defer signing it until Monday. It appearing from his explanation that the fowl was "off" which the rapacious trust had overlooked and from the eating of which it could in no wise profit, the writer readily granted a special dispensation and down went his John Henry.

Now, these are the shining lights with whose names the writer has been endeavoring to decorate The People's subscription list, but many of whom have gone so far as to call yours truly an Anarchist. In their childish simplicity they firmly believe "things will adjust themselves." S-h-u-r-e! As an evidence that such a condition has already come to themselves, one comrade pointedly asks: Does not the rich man have his ice in the summer and the poor man have his in the winter?

G. W. O.  
Pittsburg, Pa., January 26.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT SWEDEN.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The Seattle "Industrial Worker" of January 15 had an article by John Sandgren entitled "General Strike in Sweden." In the latter part of the article Sandgren writes about the convention held by the Swedish national economic organization November last. Among the more important questions, considered at that convention, he mentions the relation between the economic organization and the Social Democratic party. Says Sandgren:

"... there was a clause in the preamble prescribing that the economic organization exert its efforts to have the unions join the local organizations of the Social Democratic party of Sweden. On motion of the Iron and Metal Workers, supported by other organizations, these words were stricken from the preamble by a vote of 232 to 224."

This is correct, according to a report in "Arbetaren" gathered from the Social Democratic papers in Sweden. Further, Sandgren writes:

"At the same time the convention to avoid misinterpretation, adopted a resolution by a considerable majority, that by this decision it was not intended to break up the unity and solidarity of labor's forces, but that the convention considers the Social Democratic party as the natural expression of the political ambitions of the Swedish workers."

This is also true. But from those facts Sandgren draws one, to my mind, peculiar conclusion, when he states:

"Put together, these measures mean that the antiparliamentary tendencies in the Swedish labor movement were strong enough to force a complete cut-

ting loose from the political party, which previously had been one of its constituent parts, in order to avoid a rupture in the ranks of the economic movement."

It can't very well be the antiparliamentary tendencies that by a considerable majority declare that the Social Democratic party is the logical expression of the workers' political ambitions. The fact is that the antiparliamentary tendencies did express themselves in the sixty-five votes that were cast against this last mentioned resolution compared with the 367 in favor of the same.

And the decision, to strike out the above mentioned clause from the preamble, does not by any means imply "a complete cutting loose from the political party," as the party in its present form of organization is built upon the trades unions. The trades unions are locally organized politically into what is called "the workmen's communal," which again is the unit of the national Social Democratic party. But each trade union has to decide for itself if it shall join the commune or not. So it has been, if I am not mistaken, ever since the year of 1900, and so it is still. The striking out of the above mentioned clause means only this, that the national organization as such shall not urge on the local union to join the party.

Nevertheless there is in Sweden a considerable anti-political element, the so-called "young Socialists," who don't only advocate desertion from the party, but also advocate de-centralization within the economic organization. Instead of the tendencies to an industrial form of organization, they want to have a sort of independent local organization. As to the means in the class struggle they take their cue from the French syndicalists.

Such is the situation within the labor movement in Sweden.

A. H. Lyzell.  
New York, January 28, 1910.

## HICKEY (HIC, HIC) AT IT IN TEXAS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—At a well attended meeting, Section Houston held its semi-annual election of officers last Sunday.

It now becomes apparent that Comrade Pierson's visit has resulted in a substantial benefit to the S. L. P. movement here in Houston. The inclemency of the weather during his stay permitted only two open air meetings, so Pierson spread the gospel of workingman's emancipation through the shops and factories, at the same time landing over 50 subs to The People and other S. L. P. papers.

A certain T. A. Hickey, spellbinder, organizer and what not, of the pure and simple S. P., swooped down upon Houston last week, heralded and welcomed by the leaders of the pure and simple craft unionists. (I enclose one interview cut from the Houston Chronicle to see if the Editor of The People can make out what T. A. Hickey wants to impress upon the working people; I confess I can't.)

Said Hickey lectured in Carpenters' Hall on Sunday evening last on "Frenzied Finance," and on Monday night at a street meeting "On the Waste of Competition." He failed to tell his audience how to get rid of their condition of slavery under capitalism by joining the only logical political party of the working class, viz., the S. L. P., and the industrially organized economic union, the I. W. W. All he wanted was votes; votes for the S. P.

Well, the next day, Tuesday, Mr. Hickey was so filled with the spirit(s) of S. P.-ism and A. F. of L.-ism that he became quite confidential, and as the passing of the hat at the conclusion of his lecture the night before had not panned out satisfactorily, he quite candidly remarked to an S. L. P. comrade and myself that it was "no use to talk to those bums and deadbeats over there on the corner"; and sure enough, that night he had himself excused from speaking on account of sore throat, and he left the city on the first train in the morning.

The meat strike seems to have struck Houston in full blast. The rice farmers are smiling in anticipation of the price of rice going up, but those who have live stock for sale as well as the retail meat dealers are mad. O sancta simplicitas!

Theo. Newman.  
Houston, Texas, January 28.

## TEN CENT BOOKS

Communist Manifesto.  
Engles, Life Of.  
No Compromise.  
Socialism, What It Is.  
Workingman's Programme.

New York Labor News Company.  
28 City Hall Place. New York.

## HAT-PASSERS

The Doom of Collections Graft—"Passing" of the Hat—The Symbol and the Symptom.

Seattle, Wash., January 27.—Hat-passing in Seattle has seen its Halcyon Days. This species of open-faced graft has had its long summer in other hands. Its late revival in street meetings of doubtful character, and more dubious promise, in this town, is like the spasmodic warmth of an Indian Summer of graft. The "winter of their discontent" is now fast upon them. Like weeds, all grafts have but the short life of a summer's breath. Life has no serious business with them.

THE DOOM OF A DYING GRAFT is the utter extinction of the custom of collections in the near future. Even the capitalistic, parasitic Salvation Army has recently had to rush to the defense of collections, feeling the pinch of our crusade in Seattle against collections as a sign of graft. As the result of our constantly reiterated warning against the Hat-Passers of all stripes and persuasions, the habitues of "Hamburger Row" now feel themselves justified in refusing to be that empty-pated spineless thing, the "Dime-Dropper." For want of knowing what to do, or how to refuse, the empty-head drops his dime with an uncomfortable feeling that somehow everybody would look at him if he does not. Tom Lawson's famous "spineless shrimp" must have been twin brother to the "Dime Dropper."

THE DIME-DROPPER FOSTERS VICE, the most vicious of vices, the insidious graft of coining the puling sympathy of a maudlin and lackadaisical multitude. True, if robbery could be a virtue, such infantile sentimentalists are well rid of the money, which their fatuous brains are too rapid to employ to good uses.

THE HAT IN "PASSING" to its eternal desuetude, will not have tipped in vain, if the multitude but learn the lesson it teaches: the duty to bring all things to the standard measure of reason, and the ill-omened course of all sentimental crusades.

A SYMPTOM OF DECAY and approaching death is a collection from the crowd, by any organization of whatever propaganda. In de facto denying the organization existing in de jure, by the open view of the body failing to longer function as a body capable of self-sustaining life, it leaves its unbound sores to the public gaze, this livid spot of decay, this tell-tale symptom of approaching dissolution and death. The body that can no longer function for itself has ceased to be an organism. The organization that has no central force to live within itself, that keeps each part on its collections from the multitude, is like unto that lower form of life where in every pore is its own stomach (note the jelly fish), which possesses no real body, as each pore is unto itself sufficient with its gathered collections from the sea (multitude). Such living methods are indices of such body-less masses.

THE SYMBOL OF THE HAT is in all reasoning eyes the outward badge of the individual grafter, as well as the vivid symptom to all observers of the functionless mass with which the collective "Hat-Passers" may be classed. As the "3 Balls" have in past generations been the iniquitous sign of usury, condemned by all men, so in this day the "Hat-Passer" is branded with the "Sign of the Hat," as a thing to be loathed of all, and to be avoided like the touch of a leper. Thoughtful men, self-respecting, reward all Hat-Passing grafters, whose conduct brands them as mental paranoiacs, with well merited moral ostracism.

E. H. F.

## UNITY

An Address by DANIEL DE LEON  
THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL-IST UNITY IS TO THE FORE AND THIS PAMPHLET SHOULD BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BRINGING IT ABOUT. . . .

PRICE 5 CENTS.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.  
28 City Hall Place, New York.

## LETTER-BOX

OFF-HAND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NO QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THAT COME IN ANONYMOUS LETTERS. ALL LETTERS MUST CARRY A BONA FIDE SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS.

T. M., TOLEDO, O.—If there is any chance of Gompers Unionism emerging out of its reactionary into a revolutionary posture, that chance it will reach through the gate of a "Labor Party." In the absence thereof the ancient warning against pouring new wine into old bottles holds good. Gompers Unionism will otherwise melt inevitably away, and tear itself to pieces. Whether the ultimate goal will be reached sooner through the latter alternative than via a "Labor Party" is hard to tell.

L. A., CHICAGO, ILL.—Let 'em go. Not worth the while entering into a polemic on that. It is an unerring symptom of mental weakness (where the man is honest), or of mental crookedness, when a man leaves aside the allegations of fact and the reasoning thereon presented in an argument, and flies off into criticisms of style, its "viciousness," "personality," or what not. Such people are either too dishonest, and want to dodge the issue, or they are too light of weight to be worth bothering with.

A. S., JERSEY CITY, N. J.—Read over again the article "Methuselah's Age." It argues along the identical line that you do.

B. J., ST. LOUIS, MO.—The figures given in The People were deducted from the figures in Congressman Coudrey's bill, as given in the Congressional Record. If anyone objects to the deductions let him furnish us with the figures in the bill—preferably the bill itself.

J. P., FERNDALE, WASH.—The conception that the workingman, even if he is anxious to work, is an "I'm-a-bum" on the ground that he is a slave—that conception is slummy. Upon it no structure or organization can be built. The workingman is "raw material"; the slummiest is rotten material.

H. G., SCHENECTADY, N. Y.—Dates are full up to the handle.

J. W., BROOKLYN, N. Y.—In the address on Woman's Suffrage over four pages are taken up with the arguments of the "Antis," and thirteen pages with the arguments of the "Pros." The errors of both are therein shown. The lock of those errors can be unlocked only with the key of Socialism. No better proof that Woman's Suffrage is a branch of the Socialist Movement, and can be understood only from the Socialist view point.

B. O. R., TORONTO, CANADA.—A man can not say that "Gompers Unionism, with all its horrible features, still is a class struggle affair," and, in the same breath, deny the class struggle quality of a "Labor Party," set up by the same Gompers Unionism. If the political expression (Labor Party) of Gompers Unionism is non-class struggle, then the expression of the thing (Gompers Unionism itself) can not be class struggle. If the expressor (Gompers Unionism) is class struggle, then its political expression (Labor Party) is class struggle also.

H. H., CHICAGO, ILL.—In the address of Woman's Suffrage (pp. 10-26) the question of "inalienable rights," whether there be such or not, and what the dis-

cussion amounts to is practically handled, and amply. Only triflers will bother with that abstract question when so many practical ones demand attention.

E. J. H., PHILADELPHIA, PA.—The S. T. and L. A. was no sudden birth. Before the organization named S. T. and L. A. was launched there were a number of federated central bodies—two in New York, one in Brooklyn, at least one other in Jersey City—built absolutely upon S. T. and L. A. principles and held together by a central board. When in 1895 D. A. 49 of the K. of L. seceded from the K. of L. it joined those other bodies. The joined bodies then assumed the name of S. T. and L. A. Mr. N. L. Stone and others have talked about the "suddenness of the S. T. and L. A. birth." Such language only shows recklessness and superficial information. As to the S. L. P. having been fooled into endorsing the S. T. and L. A., the reports of the S. L. P. national convention disprove that.—Next question next week.

E. A., NEW ORLEANS, LA.—For an illustration take the recent S. P. glorifications of the infamous proceedings of the United Mine Workers' convention, closely in line with Ben Hanford's conduct, who stamped this State in 1902 singing the praises of Mitchell as "the leading champion of Labor." This sort of thing did not and does not materialize in practical support at the ballot box; all the support it materializes into is cash. Last January's address of the National Executive Committee of the S. L. P. states the facts and conclusions in a nut-shell:—"In such cases the cash given in support is a bribe: where Socialism is bribed the bribing is not in the interest of Socialism."

T. R., NEW LONDON, CONN.—There can be no doubt whatever of several leaders in the S. P. having seriously considered the advisability of giving up that ship and setting up a "Labor Party." That some of these gentlemen got up a list of A. F. of L. men in Toronto who winked, or who they thought winked, at the plan and from whom they expected support, is also quite certain.

A. S. D., DES MOINES, IA.—The San Antonio, Tex., "Mujer Moderna" (The Modern Woman) is worse than "palabras, palabras, palabras"—words, words, words. For instance, its allegory "El Capricho de las Flores" (A Flowers' Whim) is, in such a paper, peculiarly harmful—in the sense that all walls, at seasons that call for action, are harmful, and harmful in the measure of their beauty. The more beautiful they are, all the more do they assuage pain, and thereby reconcile the mind to suffering. In a paper like The People, which does everything but wall, such a wallful allegory would not be out of place. Shall probably translate it into English.

A. J. S., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.; J. M. F., QUINN, ILL.; W. R. P., MISHAWAKA, IND.; H. B. S., HAMILTON, CANADA; J. S., NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME, TENN.; F. C. R., NEW YORK, N. Y.; I. H. N., NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.; C. C. C., PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.; G. J. S., ST. PAUL, MINN.; O. R., WEST HAVEN, CONN.—Matter received.

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## OFFICIAL

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Paul Augustine, National Secretary,  
28 City Hall Place, N. Y. City.

**CANADIAN S. L. P.**, Philip Courtenay,  
National Secretary, 144 Duchess ave-  
nue, London, Ont.

**NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.**, the  
Party's Literary Agency, 28 City Hall  
Place, N. Y. City.

**NOTICE**—For technical reasons no  
Party announcements can go in that  
are not in this office by Tuesday,  
6 p. m.

## ILLINOIS S. E. C.

Meeting of the Illinois S. E. C. was  
held on January 30. Davis chairman.  
All present except Lingenfelter and  
Reimer, excused.

Decided that State Secretary act as  
Recording and Financial Secretary.

State Secretary reports that he is  
hampered in his work, because audit-  
ing committee of Section Cook County  
failed to audit books of former State  
Secretary French and that he was un-  
able to secure property of S. E. C. from  
French for same reason: has notified  
Section Cook County to take proper  
action so that there shall be no further  
delay: has collected \$2 from J. Billow  
on his debt of \$19 to S. E. C., and he  
received order for 100 due stamps from  
Section Cook County: report accepted.

After some discussion as to future  
work it was decided to instruct Sec-  
retary to arrange method of raising  
funds.

As to further work it was considered  
advisable to wait until we hear from  
the comrades in the State. The mem-  
bers are urged to write often and take  
a lively interest in our work. Cash  
on hand, \$14. Motion to adjourn car-  
ried.

J. Bobinsky,  
State Secretary.

Comrades to work. The time for  
S. L. P. propaganda is better now  
than it ever was. With the S. P.  
going to pieces, the error of its prin-  
ciples and tactics is becoming too ob-  
vious for it to exist much longer,  
and with the standard of living  
going down, the field is ripe for some  
S. L. P. agitation and organization.  
We are as yet few, but conditions are  
coming in our favor, and they will  
become more so right along.

The only thing is to get to work and  
do something. Many things can be  
done even by isolated comrades, such  
as helping the Party press financially,  
by sub getting, etc. All agitation will  
lead to organization in time. It isn't  
so much a question what to do, as to  
do something, and I hope we will com-  
mence doing something.

J. Bobinsky,  
State Secretary.

1229 Hastings St.

## VIRGINIA S. E. C.

The State Executive Committee of  
the Socialist Labor Party in Virginia  
met in regular session with Rudolph  
in the chair. Members present: Bux-  
ton, Neff, Rudolph, Jerome Brandt.

Minutes of the previous meeting  
adopted as read.

Correspondence: From Organizer  
Mueller, Richmond, on general Party  
affairs, enclosing half yearly report.  
Received and filed. From Schmidt,  
Roanoke, also on Party matters in the  
State. Received and filed. From Sec-  
tion Norfolk County financial report  
for the half year. Decided that the  
State Secretary be instructed to make  
call for nominations for the place of  
the next State Convention for July,  
1910, nominations to close March 25.

Decided that the State Secretary be  
instructed to urge the Sections to  
more activity in opening new terri-  
tory with our literature with a view  
to forming new Sections in the indus-  
trial districts in this State.

Decided, with the consent of the  
Sections, to select four industrial cen-  
tres in the State for agitation, the  
cities named to be Danville, Lynch-  
burg, Fredericksburg, and Petersburg.  
Financial report was then read and  
adopted.

There being no further business to  
hand, the meeting adjourned.

Receipts, \$2.70; expenses, fifty cents.  
F. Buxton,  
Recording Secretary.

## WASHINGTON S. E. C.

The Washington S. E. C. met in  
regular session at headquarters, 208  
Sullivan Building, at 7 p. m., January  
21. Staff secretary, Riordan called  
meeting to order. Present: Herron,  
Sullivan, Phipps, Brearcliff, Reddington,  
Stevens and Riordan. Phipps was  
chosen chairman. Stevens secretary.

Communications from National Sec-  
retary in regard to the Spokane affair  
and the protest from Section Tacoma.  
Moved by Riordan and seconded by  
Brearcliff, that said communication be  
filed for future action. Carried. Com-

munication from Section Spokane,  
sending a copy of part of letters de-  
manded by the S. E. C. Moved by  
Reddington, seconded by Sullivan, that  
the S. E. C. endorse the action of the  
State Secretary in his handling of the  
Spokane matter, and order the sec-  
retary to forward the letters and other  
correspondence from Section Spokane  
to the N. F. C. Carried.

Comrade Johnson of the Scandina-  
vian Club, reported that the club had  
decided that they could not handle  
tour of Comrade Olive M. Johnson in  
this state, and asked the S. E. C. to  
take charge of the matter. The State  
Secretary was instructed to communi-  
cate with Comrade Olive M. Johnson  
in regard to the time she could come  
and how long she could remain in the  
state.

Financial report: balance on hand,  
January 1, \$82.36; receipts, January 1  
to date, \$21.08; total, \$103.39; expen-  
ditures to date, \$34.45; balance on  
hand, \$68.94.

R. W. Stevens,  
Recording Secretary.

## BOSTONIANS, PAUSE!

To Members and Friends of Section  
Boston, S. L. P.:

The Scandinavian Socialist Labor  
Club of Boston will hold its annual  
fair on FEBRUARY 19, 20, and 21,  
in Minot Hall, corner Springfield and  
Washington streets.

The committee has granted Section  
Boston a table at this fair. We take  
this means of appealing to you to try to  
donate some articles for the Section  
which can be put on sale at the fair.

Comrades, this is a good chance to  
raise a fund for the coming summer  
agitation. Presents may be sent to  
any of the following: F. Bohmbach, 35  
Chestnut avenue, Jamaica Plain; J.  
Sweetney, 85 Centre street, Roxbury; F.  
Houtenbrink, 532 Eighth street, South  
Boston, Mass.

## PHILA. LECTURE.

Propaganda meetings under the aus-  
pices of the Socialist Labor Party in  
Philadelphia are held at Morning Star  
Hall, northeast corner Ninth and Cal-  
lowhill streets, every Sunday. On  
SUNDAY afternoon, February 13, at  
2:30 o'clock, a symposium, "What's the  
Matter with the Socialist party?" will  
be held. There will be a historical  
sketch of the S. P.'s rise and decline.  
Everybody welcome. Free discus-  
sion.

## ST. LOUIS LECTURE.

Hy. J. Poelling will lecture on the  
"Economic Cause of Broken Homes," on  
SUNDAY, February 13, at the S. L. P.  
Headquarters, 1717 S. Broadway, St.  
Louis, Mo. All members and sympa-  
thizers should attend this lecture. Meet-  
ing starts at 2:30 p. m. Admission  
free.

The Committee.

## SEATTLE NOTICE.

A benefit and entertainment to raise  
campaign funds will be given SUNDAY,  
February 20, 8 p. m., at Columbia Hall.  
Those pleased with last entertainment  
come again. Watch for notice of pro-  
gram.

## SWEDISH GENERAL STRIKE.

Readers of The People who have any  
subscription lists for the Swedish strik-  
ers, issued by the Scandinavian Socialist  
Labor Federation of America, should  
immediately return the same and what-  
ever money may be contributed on them  
to the undersigned. All lists with or  
without contributions should be sent in  
without delay.

For the Scandinavian Socialist Labor  
Federation:

A. Furstenberg,  
Nat'l Secretary,  
340 E. 53rd St., New York City.

## UNITY

An Address by DANIEL DE LEON

THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL-  
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28 City Hall Place, New York.

## GETTING DOWN TO WORK

The Daily People Tenth Anniversary  
Propaganda Club Already Shows Re-  
sults.

Very gratifying indeed are the enroll-  
ments that are coming in response to  
our call for Volunteers for the Daily  
People Tenth Anniversary 1,000 Club.  
But better still, as an evidence that  
the idea, that the best manner in which  
to celebrate the Daily People's Tenth  
Birthday is by extending the propa-  
ganda, has taken hold, is the way the  
subs came in last week. We want you  
to be on this growing list of those who  
send two or more subs. Enroll at  
once.

J. Oander, Fieldbrook, Cal. .... 2  
O. M. Johnson, Fruitvale, Cal. .... 2  
L. C. Haller, Los Angeles, Cal. .... 2  
A. Gillhaus, San Francisco, Cal. .... 5  
E. J. Kern, Vallejo, Cal. .... 2  
S. L. P. Section Denver, Colo. .... 3  
L. Linther, Colo. Springs, Colo. .... 2  
W. J. Gerry, Colo. Springs, Colo. .... 2  
F. Knotek, Hartford, Conn. .... 12  
A. S. Carr, Chicago, Ill. .... 2  
G. A. Jennings, E. St. Louis, Ill. .... 2  
L. Fusselman, Quincy, Ill. .... 2  
Chas. Pierson, New Orleans, La. .... 3

## CLEVELAND, S. L. P. ENTERTAINMENT.

Section Cleveland, S. L. P., has ar-  
ranged a great entertainment, the-  
atrical performance and ball for the  
benefit of the German Party organ,  
"Volksfreund und Arbeiter Zeitung,"  
which takes place SUNDAY, February  
13, at Acme Hall (formerly Germania  
Hall), on East Ninth street (old Erie  
street), near Scoville avenue, com-  
mencing at 8 o'clock p. m.

A splendid program will be rendered.  
The headline is the one-act play,  
"Der Mord in der Kohlmeisergasse,"  
("The Murder in Coal Lane"), a roar-  
ing, laughter-provoking farce. It is  
well known that Section Cleveland has  
highly talented comrades in its ranks  
who can perform as well as many  
professionals. "Zima the Great,"  
America's greatest magician, will en-  
tertain the guests with some aston-  
ishing new acts. The Socialistische  
Liedertafel will be there, with some  
of their rousing revolutionary songs,  
also some of the best solo singers in  
the city. Instrumental solos, recita-  
tions, etc., will complete the program.

Tickets in advance, twenty-five cents  
a couple, and can be had from all  
members and at office of Volksfreund,  
1386 Ontario street; at the door, fifty  
cents. As the net proceeds go to the  
German Party organ, which is in ur-  
gent need of funds, it is hoped that  
comrades, friends and sympathizers  
will attend in full force, and also sell  
as many tickets as possible. A grand  
good time can be assured to all vis-  
itors.

The Committee.

ATTENTION, ROCKVILLE AND VI-  
CINITY.

A masquerade and ball will be held  
at Turn Hall, on SATURDAY, Feb-  
ruary 12. We invite all readers of  
the Party to come. Hartford comrades  
are also asked to turn up. The mask-  
ers are making great plans and all  
points to success.

Committee.

## "The People"

Official Organ of and Owned by the  
Australian Socialist League and  
Socialist Labor Party.

A Weekly Paper published for the  
purpose of spreading Socialist Prin-  
ciples and organizing Socialist  
Thought. Its mission is to educate  
and prepare the working class for  
the approaching day of their eman-  
cipation from wage slavery; to  
point the way to class-conscious or-  
ganization for economic and polit-  
ical action that the days of cap-  
italist bondage might be quickened  
unto the dead things of the past.  
Every Wage Worker Should  
Read It.

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asia), \$2 per year; \$1 for 6 months.  
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The WEEKLY PEOPLE,  
28 City Hall Place, New York.

## AUSTRALIAN STRIKE.

(Continued from page one.)

train. Thus was avoided a deliberately  
planned Government riot and consequent  
bloodshed.

In the State Assembly the next Mon-  
day, the State Secretary blamed it on  
the heads of police, knowing that they  
daren't talk against "discipline." It was  
a miscarriage of the Bulkeley Wells  
tactics of Cripple Creek.

The men were released on bail, and  
though the charge of "conspiracy" was  
made at Newcastle Court, the prosecu-  
tors tried to have a change of venue to  
Sydney, notwithstanding that the al-  
leged conspiracy was said to have been  
hatched in Newcastle. This indicated  
further the fact that the arrest in New-  
castle was to create a riot. The change  
of venue was refused.

Keys of union headquarters were taken  
from the officials, and detectives took  
possession of the minute book and pa-  
pers of the Executive Board to get evi-  
dence that the board had called a strike,  
striking being a criminal offence ac-  
cording to the Industrial Disputes Act, and  
punishable by 60 days imprisonment or  
fine.

On the arrest being made, the Sydney  
coal handlers decided to strike, and they  
struck to a man from docks and gas  
works. The "public" press became fran-  
tic, appealed for "law and order" and  
"free laborers," that is, to scabs to keep  
the gas works going. The Mayor of  
Sydney ordered kerosene lamps to light  
the city, and the bourgeoisie went mad  
with rage. The Government railways  
and tramways gave the "Annual Holi-  
days" to their wage slaves without the  
usual passes. Train service was cut  
down, also ferry and street car service;

all excursion fares were cancelled and  
notices issued that no passenger was  
guaranteed accommodation in any train.  
Inter-State steamers were tied up thro'  
lack of coal and all hands paid off.

Steamers still running raised passenger  
and freight rates. The press was inun-  
dated with letters protesting against  
"criminal strikes," "lawless miners," and  
especially "the iniquitous I. W. W."  
Brickworks shut down. Cold storage  
companies wouldn't guarantee to keep  
the goods in condition, and right into  
Victoria factories shut down thro' lack  
of fuel. It is estimated that 12,000  
miners are on strike. Three weeks after  
the strike started, 10,000 were idle in  
Sydney owing to lack of coal.

One of the Congress delegates is W.  
M., known as "Billy" Hughes, president  
of the wharf laborers and a prominent  
"Labor" member in the Federal Parlia-  
ment. He is one of the biggest fakirs  
in Australia, and has kept the wharf  
laborers at work. The "Congress," on  
being asked by the Gas Employees' Union  
what they should do with a cargo of coal  
on board a ship at the gas works, was  
instructed to do as they liked. The Gas  
Workers' Union is now unloading the  
coal from the ship into the storage bins,  
and is receiving the approval of the  
bourgeoisie.

The union in the North fixed up a deal  
with two mines not in the "Vend" to  
operate their mines on conditions de-  
manded before the strike. An agreement  
was made with Kettell & Co., the own-  
ers, to turn over to the miners half of  
the profits over a certain price, this sum  
to be used to finance the strike. Bowl-  
ing expected to get \$25,000 per week  
from this source, which can not have  
materialized as the Government rail-  
ways "confiscated" half the output at  
first at what it considered a fair price,  
and now confiscates the whole output.

Kettell & Co. have no coal wagons, and  
at first the Government refused to haul  
any coal but now "hauls" it all. It trans-  
pired that the refusal of Railway Com-  
missioner Johnson to haul coal from the  
two mines working, followed his enter-  
taining Learmouth, president of the  
Mine Owners' Association.

In the State Legislature, the "Labor"  
members tried to force an open confer-  
ence as demanded by the miners before  
returning to work. The Northern "Vend"  
has so far refused any conference until  
the miners go back. The "Labor" mem-  
bers demanded the Government to take  
over mines and work them to supply the  
public. This idea was defeated in the  
Legislature, so the members held meet-  
ings in Sydney and suburbs demanding  
nationalization of the coal mines. The  
S. L. P. hammered this "nationalization"  
idea and made the "Labor" dupes squal.

Compulsory Arbitration was the beau-  
ideal of the "Labor" Party and their  
creation, the act being one of their  
planks which was "stolen" by a capital-  
ist party. Premier Wade asked in Par-  
liament if the Labor members supported  
the miners on strike. They kept as  
mum as oysters, for their chickens were  
coming home to roost. Leader McGowan

said he had "nothing to say," and de-  
puty Leader Holman said the miners  
were wrong in striking. They were like  
chickens without a head, everywhere  
they ran they were tripping and falling.

"Labor" indeed! They are only a  
bunch of bourgeois cuspidor cleaners.  
Premier Wade, finding that notwith-  
standing the possibility of 60 days jail  
for striking, strikes still took place, and  
recognizing the utter futility of jailing  
12,000 men, rushed through and made  
law an amendment to the "Industrial  
Disputes Act" increasing the penalty for  
striking or supporting a strike to 12  
months in jail without the option of a  
fine. The Labor members, to save their  
necks, fought this, but the gag was  
applied. The Act, "of course," applies  
to capitalists who create a lock out, but  
the worker who thinks that police will  
be allowed in an employers' meeting  
needs his brains brushed.

The notable incidents in the strike  
have been the numerous references to  
the I. W. W. The strike leaders and  
anybody who advocated a strike, were  
immediately branded "I. W. W. mem-  
bers." The meeting held by the wharf  
laborers to decide strike or no strike  
was reported next day as "Reds versus  
Blues"; "Defeat of the Reds," and detail  
was given of how I. W. W. members  
were defeated. The facts are, no mem-  
bers of the I. W. W. are in the wharf  
laborers' union. At any place that mis-  
leader Hughes heard a man speak  
against his ideas, he cried "I. W. W."  
Sleeping or waking, dining or wining,  
Hughes saw the magic letters I. W. W.  
The more he attacked it, the more was  
I. W. W.-ism talked about. The cap-  
italist sheets took up and published the  
Preamble of the I. W. W., and ministers  
lined up against the new unionism.

In line with the passing of the Act,  
a "Compulsory Wages Board" was form-  
ed. Judge Scholes appointed Paterson,  
the president of Coal and Shale Work-

401, Club Building, 1781 Arapahoe  
street. People readers invited. Agent  
of Party organs, Al. Wernet, Hotel  
Carlton, 15th and Glenarm streets.

## I. W. W. NOTES.

General Executive Board, Industrial  
Workers of the World.

Chas. E. Trainor, Local No. 4, Denver,  
Col.

Herman Richter, Local No. 159, De-  
troit, Mich.

Robert McLure, Local No. 218, Phila-  
delphia, Pa.

Frank Knotek, Local No. 69, Hartford,  
Conn.

Harry B. Simpson, Local No. 554,  
Hamilton, Canada.

H. Richter, Hamtramck, General Sec-  
retary-Treasurer.

Good Cheer to all the Members of the  
I. W. W., its Sympathizers and Fighters  
in the Class War of the Wage Worker,  
in 1910.

At the threshold of the New Year we  
can say with joy that the organization  
is recovering in good shape from the  
late assault of visionaries and traitors.  
Its strength, influence and effectiveness  
are growing with all the speed of the  
social evolution. The correspondence  
with Headquarters shows that the need  
of a sound Industrial Union movement  
is recognized throughout the land; with  
renewed vigor the work of education  
and organization is taken up.

Fourteen months have passed since  
the membership of the Industrial Work-  
ers of the World, loyal to the principles  
and methods adopted at its birth, in  
accord with the International Social-  
ist Movement, was forced, the second  
time, to organize a general administra-  
tion to make ineffective the plot of the  
capitalists and their hirelings, to thro-  
tle the revolutionary spirit, and make  
a caricature of Industrial Unionism. In  
1906, Sherman and the A. F. of L. el-  
ement were the ready tools in the scheme,  
to stop progress; in 1908 the slums and  
anarchists using "Direct Action" to  
dominate the weak and ill-informed of  
the membership, endeavored to turn the  
trick for the capitalists, shouting, "Down  
with working class political action."

They have failed. The class-conscious  
workers could not be swerved from the  
path of class interest.

With the optimism which knowledge  
imparts, with the steadiness and perse-  
verance which arises from seeing clear  
the path that leads to emancipation,  
with the self-respect and courage ob-  
edience to the laws of social evolution  
produces, the Industrial Workers of the  
World stick to the mission which the  
social status of the wage slave requires;  
to aid the worker to free himself from  
the fetters of capitalism, to destroy the  
paralyzing influence that benumbs his  
intellect, to spread the information nec-  
essary for the unity of thought and  
action. The overthrow of wage slavery  
demands the organization of the wage  
workers into one grand Industrial Union,  
able to "Take and Hold" the product of  
their labor for the working class.

No wage worker can afford to be out-  
side of the economic organization of his  
class.

Why do you hesitate? Join To-day.

Look at the offshoot that fraudu-

lently carries our name after having  
abandoned the principles and methods  
of the I. W. W.

Spokane: The Shame of Spokane. It  
is not the brutality of the police, but  
the mendacity of leadership that sacri-  
fices its ill-informed followers in a most  
reckless manner. Three hundred are led  
into the clutches of the capitalist hire-  
lings, to maintain a political right, that  
with sane methods would not have re-  
quired six as the class-conscious workers  
have proved in many cities for a long  
time.

It required the "Secret Fighting Com-  
mittee," (most likely a few workers who  
mastered the fanatic influence) to stop  
the self inflicted starvation. "Joan the  
Ark" naively informs us that it was  
working into the hands of the capital-  
ists. O, Innocence, how long shall Cunn-  
gning succeed in enslaving the worker by  
your aid?

The brutality and outrages committed  
against the loyal membership of the I.  
W. W. by the very persons in Spokane,  
who now ask for support to overcome  
the effects of their own stupidity, can-  
not be obscured by the hysterical cry for  
Free Speech.

A crew so low as to deprive its mem-  
bership of their rights, to assault them,  
and throw those out of the meeting hall  
who had the courage to criticize schemes,  
and expose crooked work of a Walsh  
and his helpers does not deserve support.

The support and publicity given by the  
privately owned so-called Socialist press  
proves the adage: "Birds of a feather  
flock together." The doors for graft are  
wide open in the atavist concern. That  
press opposed the I. W. W. since its birth,  
because it is conducted in conformity  
with the workers' class interest. No  
spoils there.

With this sample of "Direct Action"  
before us, the work of education and or-  
ganization will be easier. The Ass in the  
Lion's Skin, serves progress in the only  
way it can.

To work then, Fellow Workers, with  
all the force you can command to com-  
bat Error, so Truth may get a foothold;  
to spread class knowledge, widening the  
mental horizon of the worker, enabling  
him to do his part in the great class  
fight, with directness and effect; to or-  
ganize the wage slave in the Industrial  
Union, giving the most favorable oppor-  
tunity to acquire information, discipline,  
and power. The integral union assists  
mechanically the principle of class soli-  
darity, its scope calls for sane methods.

The growing strength of the political  
and industrial class movement will force  
concessions from the Capitalists, and  
finally conquer the robber burg and se-  
cure to the Worker the full product of  
his labor.

The Semi-annual report has been sent  
to all the Locals and members-at-large.

A new agitation leaflet will be out in  
a short time.

St. Louis is beginning the New Year  
by organizing a new Local with four-  
teen charter members. The I-am-a-Bum  
bunch is down and out.

Like conditions are reported from Pat-  
erson, N. J., New Bedford, Mass., and  
many other cities.

said he had "nothing to say," and de-  
puty Leader Holman said the miners  
were wrong in striking. They were like  
chickens without a head, everywhere  
they ran they were tripping and falling.

"Labor" indeed! They are only a  
bunch of bourgeois cuspidor cleaners.  
Premier Wade, finding that notwith-  
standing the possibility of 60 days jail  
for striking, strikes still took place, and  
recognizing the utter futility of jailing  
12,000 men, rushed through and made  
law an amendment to the "Industrial  
Disputes Act" increasing the penalty for  
striking or supporting a strike to 12  
months in jail without the option of a  
fine. The Labor members, to save their  
necks, fought this, but the gag was  
applied. The Act, "of course," applies  
to capitalists who create a lock out, but  
the worker who thinks that police will  
be allowed in an employers' meeting  
needs his brains brushed.

The notable incidents in the strike  
have been the numerous references to  
the I. W. W. The strike leaders and  
anybody who advocated a strike, were  
immediately branded "I. W. W. mem-  
bers." The meeting held by the wharf  
laborers to decide strike or no strike  
was reported next day as "Reds versus  
Blues"; "Defeat of the Reds," and detail  
was given of how I. W. W. members  
were defeated. The facts are, no mem-  
bers of the I. W. W. are in the wharf  
laborers' union. At any place that mis-  
leader Hughes heard a man speak  
against his ideas, he cried "I. W. W."  
Sleeping or waking, dining or wining,  
Hughes saw the magic letters I. W. W.  
The more he attacked it, the more was  
I. W. W.-ism talked about. The cap-  
italist sheets took up and published the  
Preamble of the I. W. W., and ministers  
lined up against the new unionism.

In line with the passing of the Act,  
a "Compulsory Wages Board" was form-  
ed. Judge Scholes appointed Paterson,  
the president of Coal and Shale Work-

ers' Association as miners' representa-  
tive. The Maitland miners have de-  
manded his resignation for accepting the  
position, and they mean to fight it out  
despite Premier Wade's "Coercion Act."  
R. Mackenzie.

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